

The Baptist Record

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Ethiopia trail of tears

Their food is good... they love us

By Robert O'Brien

RABEL, Ethiopia (BP) — Look in all directions, Berhanu, and try not to believe you see nothing but dry, rock-strewn desolation.

Push from your mind the hunger pains gnawing inside as you put one foot before the other, heading toward salvation or oblivion.

Try not to think about the family, children, friends who stumbled and fell for the last time on their trail of tears across Ethiopia's highlands.

Try to quell the desperate loneliness a person feels when life ebbs away.

Squeeze the hand of your wife, Alamaiyu, stumbling along beside you, and realize you must keep her and little Getachew and Negussie moving, keep them hoping. There's nothing else you can do for them now — and that hurts the most.

Summon up all the courage of your proud Ethiopian heritage, Berhanu. Refocus your glazed eyes and point them toward the next hill. Tell yourself this surely can't be the end. Not for you and your family — what's left of it.

Keep on, one foot after another. Hope lies over the hill or the one beyond that. You can't stop now. Surely someone, somewhere out there cares whether you live or die.

Word filters back along the trail of tears that "feringe" (foreigners) far up ahead have brought food and medicine to Rabel...

... Alamaiyu, Getachew and Negussie move on — alone.

Try hard, Alamaiyu, not to dwell on the thought that it's too late for your husband. Berhanu kept you and the children going. Now it's up to you.

Let hope surge in your heart for the two little ones you continue to shepherd through the barren highlands. Calm your fear for 18-month-old Negussie, who lies too quietly in the sling on your back. Check for signs of life and keep on.

He's still breathing. Hurry to Rabel or he'll die. It's still so far away.

Stop to comfort four-year-old Getachew. His legs are too spindly to keep up, and you don't have enough strength to carry him, too.

Don't let him see you cry as you make the decision you must. Keep him hoping. Find a safe spot for him to wait for you and remind him again and again not to stray.

Give him all you have left and tell him what a brave boy he is to wait here while you find help to save his baby brother's life.

Pray he'll wait. Pray he'll be safe.

Pray the "feringe" will really be in Rabel and that they'll help you. Pray you'll have the strength to return.

Keep one foot following another through the sunbaked, parched terrain, Alamaiyu. Forgot the sore, swollen feet. Keep moving and watch out for the jagged rocks.

Wipe the dust from your eyes. They're crusted now. Negussie's eyes have long since crusted shut. Look up ahead at all the people on that plateau. Could that be where the "feringe" are? Try to forget your fear of the strange "feringe." Now they're your only hope.

Move through the crowd. Look through the gate. Catch yourself quickly. Your knees are buckling. Slowly realize hands are touching you. Refocus your eyes. Bask in the warmth of that touch. It's been so long since anyone touched you so gently.

Marvel at the "feringe" with white skin — white skin! — washing Negussie's crusted eyes. Watch him twist his head trying to drink the water as it trickles down his cheek.

Listen to their strange tongue and wonder at their smiles. Their words — though unintelligible — speak with love. Their touch brings such

comfort.

Try to kiss their feet in gratitude and stare amazed as they lift you up, embrace you and then kneel to tend your sore feet. Eat the food. Let the strength flow back into your body and your mind grow clear. Rest. Sleep.

Now, hurry back down the trail, passing the word that help is ahead, and looking for Getachew. Pray you'll find him.

There! He's there!

Embrace him. Smile into his glazed eyes. Tell him, "Come, Getachew. Your little brother is safe with the 'feringe' friends who call themselves missionaries. Now I must take you there. Their food is so good and they love us. "You won't believe it, Getachew. I tried to bow down and kiss the feet of the white 'getoch' (lords) but instead they knelt down and washed mine."

This article was adapted from the September issue of The Commission magazine, of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Robert O'Brien, FMB overseas news coordinator and communications consultant, has visited Ethiopia four times. This article is based on true events, although the names have been changed.

Prayer ignites explosion for Christians in Korea

By Erich Bridges

JI JONG, South Korea (BP)—In rural Ji Jong village a bell clangs long and clear at 4 a.m. It is the morning call to prayer from Ji Jong Baptist Church. Most of the villagers stir, roll over and go back to sleep, but some of the faithful rouse themselves and frudge to church. Mostly women, they sit on thin pillows scattered across the floor and unite their voices in a kind of rhythmic drone as their bodies sway back and forth.

Similar scenes abound in South Korea's cities. However, in the larger, more sophisticated churches the meetings are attended by urban professionals and factory workers. Korean Christians have become known worldwide for their morning prayer meetings. Korea, long known as the "land of morning calm" has become the land of morning prayer.

But morning isn't the only time Koreans pray. They hold all-night prayer meetings and prayer retreats. They gather in homes to pray. They go to "prayer mountains" to commune with God in solitude.

For Korean Baptists, the prayer meeting is central to worship and all else the church does. "The average Korean church member is a strong believer in the power of answered specific prayer," says Southern Baptist missionary Paul Rhoads. Koreans, he explains, simply accept "that God answers prayer. Prayer is not viewed as a personal spiritual exercise in self-discipline, but as actually affecting things."

Forces behind the Korean prayer movement include the major Protestant revival that began in 1905. Now some 10 million Koreans are Christians, nearly a quarter of the population. Among other things, that revival ingrained prayer and Bible study into the lives of committed believers. So did the persecution Korean Christians suffered under the old Korean royalty, the Japanese and the communists of the north.

The nature of the Korean family also influenced the morning prayer meeting, according to missionary Norma Nichols. "In the early days,

when the families, which are so closely knit, had only one member who was a Christian, that one person could not pray (at home)," she says.

"Many of these people were women, and they had full days, so if they were going to have any time to pray, they had to do it before the day began. So they began to go to church early in the morning. There they could pray aloud. This is the Oriental kind of thing."

Anything that becomes an institution can turn into a tedious repetition, a ritual devoid of meaning. But at its best, Korean prayer is an attitude toward life, eloquently expressed in the doorways of the basement prayer closets at Kang Nam Baptist Church.

Carpenters originally built the prayer closet doorways at Kang Nam high enough to allow easy entrance to anyone of average height. But the pastor ordered the doorways cut to half-size. He believes one should enter into prayer—and the presence of God—kneeling.

Erich Bridges writes for the Foreign Mission Board.



Flies and dust crust the eyes of a mother and her baby as she struggles through the jagged, parched Ethiopian highlands hoping to find food and medicine for her child at the Southern Baptist feeding and health care center at Rabel, her husband along the way. (BP) Photo By Don Rutledge

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Editorials..... by don mcgregor

Planned Growth in Giving

As a part of Good News America—in Mississippi during October and November, Mississippi Baptists will be giving special emphasis to Planned Growth in Giving.

Planned Growth in Giving is a Bold Mission Thrust concept in that its purpose is to provide the means of financing a greatly increased effort in worldwide witnessing. Bold Mission Thrust is the Southern Baptist plan for making a gospel witness available to everyone in the world by the end of this century.

Thus the aim of Planned Growth in Giving is to challenge every Southern Baptist family or individual to increase their levels of giving through their churches by some percentage of their income.

David Michel, consultant in the Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion Department and

state director for Planned Growth in Giving, has said that the purpose of Planned Growth in Giving is two-fold: (1) personal spiritual growth and (2) underwriting Bold Mission Thrust goals.

The years for the emphasis on an increased percentage in giving are 1985 to 2000.

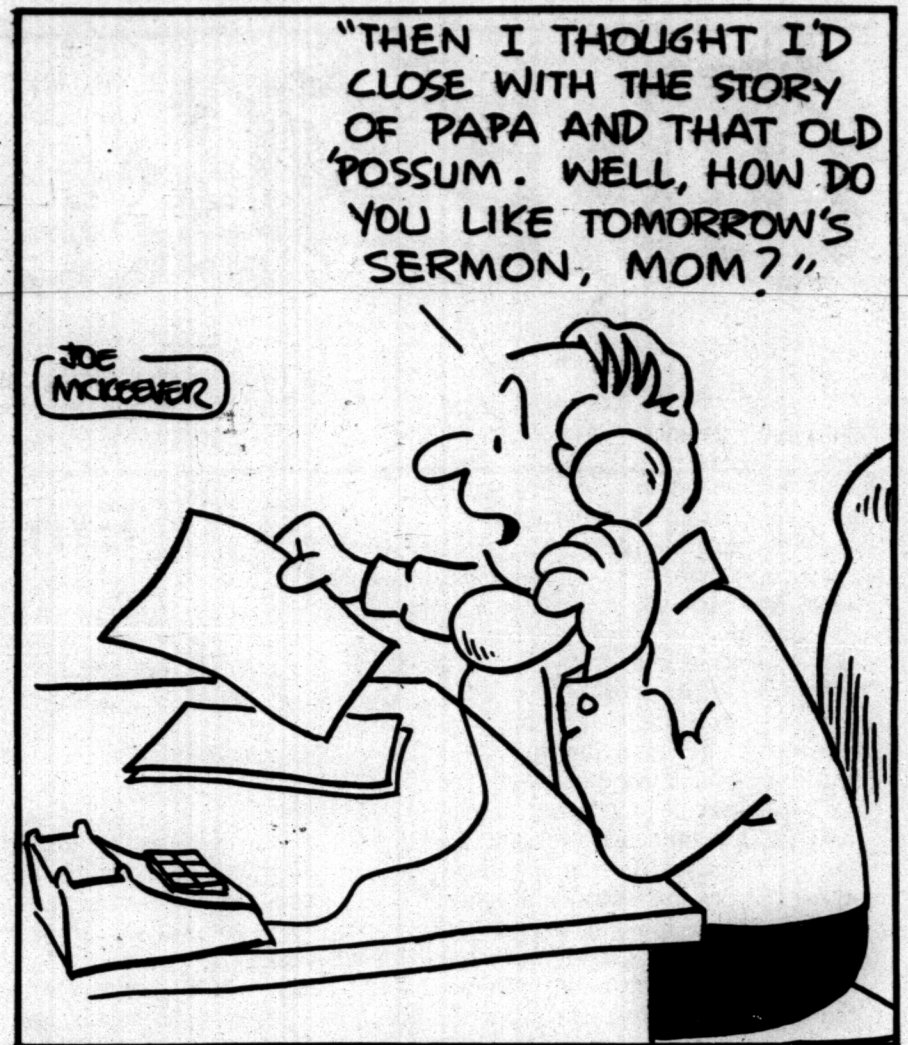
As each member is being asked to increase his giving through his church by some percentage, the churches likewise are being asked to increase their percentages going to world missions through the Cooperative Program. By the same token, the Mississippi Baptist Convention has committed itself to increasing by one-half of one percent a year the amount going outside the state to Southern Baptist causes, which includes foreign missions and home missions. The Southern Baptist Convention, then,

plans to begin allocating 75 percent of all SBC Cooperative Program funds to foreign missions and home missions before the year 2000.

At its culmination in the year 2000, the Mississippi Baptist plan of increasing the percentage of Cooperative Program funds going outside the state by one-half of one percentage point a year will result in a total of 43 percent of Cooperative Program income by the state convention going to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

James Yates, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, is chairman of the Mississippi task force on Planned Growth in Giving.

As a part of Good News America in Mississippi, Planned Growth in Giving is helping pave the way for the simultaneous revivals that will be held across Mississippi and all over the nation in the spring of 1986.



China needs witnesses, not missionaries

The new Cooperative Services International office of the Foreign Mission Board is of particular interest to me. To begin with, Lewis Myers, a Mississippian, a veteran missionary, and a former missionary to Vietnam, has been selected to head the new venture.

The Cooperative Services International office is not a missionary endeavor. Its aim is to search out ways for Southern Baptists to engage in educational and humanitarian programs in mainland China. As they go and carry out their operations in these programs, these Southern Baptists will be witnessing to the Chinese.

My oldest friend, not in years of age but in terms of the number of years covered by the friendship, returned July 1 from participating in such a program in China. He is Jack Herring, an English professor at Baylor University. We have known each other and have been close friends since we were four years old. Without saying how many, it will be freely noted that that is a lot of years. Actually, half a century would be putting it kindly.

When I was in Waco for my father's funeral, I had the opportunity to spend several hours talking with Jack about his experiences. Jack outlined what can be accomplished by professional people going to China and bearing witness by their actions, not by preaching. He was able to use the Bible as literature study, which opened up the way for questions by the inquiring Chinese students. He reports that the Chinese students are bright and are searching. He used classic literature that is heavily oriented toward a Christian testimony, such as that of Milton and Browning. Actually, one of his major subjects during his

nine months in China was a study of Milton.

Then he was able to counsel with Chinese students who were interested in coming to the United States to pursue advanced degrees. He has several who are at Baylor now, where they are coming under the influence of a Christian witness daily. And now that the Herrings are back at Baylor, they are almost second parents to the Chinese students.

But it even comes closer home than that. For about 10 months a student that he counseled has been working on an advanced degree at Mississippi State University. In English, this girl goes by the name of Jade, and she is living with Dr. and Mrs. Marvin Bond. The Bonds are former missionaries to Hong Kong, they are very active in First Baptist Church, and Dr. Bond is a member of the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He is also a professor at Mississippi State. Jade attends services at First Baptist Church with the Bonds. Now all of that amounts to a powerful witness.

My daughter, Alice, a member of First Church, Starkville, is acquainted with Jade. I have not had a chance to meet her yet, but I hope to within a couple of weeks.

The Christian church in China has survived. All of the years of missionary service in China were not wasted. The church is alive and actually grew during a period of severe persecution.

The Chinese Christians, however, have let it be known that missionaries would not be able to work in China again, nor do they want them. They want to continue to fashion the Christian church in China along Chinese lines. Both the government and the Christians, however, welcome the professionals from the United States who will go over there to perform the services for which they are trained. They will not preach. They will not have to. Their lives will cause the Chinese to find out why they are there. They will be witnesses.

Lewis Myers will be finding out what the possibilities will be and when they will exist. China is the most

populated nation on the earth. The population surpasses one billion. While the church is alive and strong, the percentage of Christians to that massive population is very low. What a tremendous mission field it is! But it cannot be approached through the traditional missions operation. Indeed, the day may be coming to a close when such an operation will be tolerated in any number of countries where we now have missionaries.

So our new method of carrying the gospel to every nation may be to go ourselves rather than paying someone else to go. And that just could be more nearly what the Master had in mind when he established the Great Commission. After all, he said, "Go." The commission was not to send somebody else. But since we can't all go, we must continue to send those who can.

Many, many others, however, will be able to go because of their occupations. Their expenses will be paid by their business connections.

That fits right in with Bold Missions Thrust, doesn't it?

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Guest opinion . . .

The danger of false prophets

By Ruby Ulmer

The writer of "Jude" called them "wandering stars." Other scriptural writers called them gainsayers and false prophets. They have worked their ruin on mankind during every period of history. Yet, despite the disaster that follows them, they are a most popular breed of men. They often possess great charisma and always have that special knack for telling people exactly what they want to hear.

Those who stray from God love the message of the false prophets because it assures them they are safe in their sins. In Ezekiel, chapter 13, verses 19 and 22, this is written of the false pro-

phets; "You have led those to death who should not die and you have promised life to those who should not live, by lying to my people and how they love it.

"Your lies have discouraged the righteous and you have encouraged the wicked by promising life, though they continue in their sins" (The Living Bible).

II Timothy, chapter 4, verse 3, tells us that congregations will actually tailor-make false prophets to suit their own misguided ideas.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but

after their own lust shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears." (King James Bible)

Today there is great demand for teachers with itching ears. To the serious concern of our government, many left wing, armed, and militant groups are springing up in our country. Most of these are strongly church-centered organizations. They teach doctrines of supremacy and racial hatred combined with the Bible. That God's word combines with such man-made doctrines like oil combines with water is of no consequence to these people. There is a strange gospel flowing from their pulpits, but there is no

shortage of preachers willing to preach it.

Jim Jones reminded us with shocking reality that our present world is fertile soil for the false prophets. The Gospel according to Jim Jones did not bear much resemblance to the Gospel according to the Bible, but none of his followers seemed to notice.

Jones was, of course, an extreme example of the false prophet. Many such men, operating in a lower key and practicing more discretion, preach for a lifetime and are never detected. Few are ever publicly barn-

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Projects for China: Nutrition to ceramics

RICHMOND, VA. (BP) — Almost 30 potential projects and assignments involving Southern Baptists in China, ranging from nutrition training to ceramics engineering, are on the drawing board.

Mississippian Lewis Myers, director of Southern Baptists' Cooperative Services International office, reported that progress when he returned in mid-September from a three-week survey trip to China. Cooperative Services International was formed in April by the denomination's Foreign Mission Board to respond to the rapidly expanding professional and social service opportunities in China and other countries where missionary service isn't possible.

Myers and several Southern Baptist colleagues met with leaders of the Three Self Patriotic Movement (China's Protestant movement), the China Christian Council, and the Amity Foundation, the new Chinese Christian social service foundation. They also met

Christians, academic and institutional leaders, and government officials in Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai, Xian, and several areas of Shandong and Henan Provinces.

"What we do in China is limited only by our vision, energy, and commitment," Myers said. While acknowledging China's firm and ongoing policy against missionaries or outside interference in religious affairs, he expressed surprise at the open attitudes he found nearly everywhere he went. "The opportunities are there. I sure hope we don't default because of a lack of vision."

Myers and his colleagues returned with a list of nearly 30 possible projects calling for Southern Baptist personnel or resources. Some of these are:

—Provide a Southern Baptist nutritionist and 30 scholarships for Chinese students in a model child nutrition project sponsored by the Amity Foundation.

—Enlist English teachers for universities in

the Nanjing area, the Foreign Language Institute in Xian, Henan University, Yantai University, and the Yu Huang Ding Hospital in Yantai, Shandong Province.

—Provide theological reference books for graduates of the Christian seminary in Nanjing and some 300 library books for the new seminary in Shanghai.

—Help establish partnerships between several Chinese universities and Southern Baptist schools in the United States (including a Southern Baptist nursing school to assist Henan Medical University as it establishes a new nursing school).

—Enlist a Southern Baptist hospital to establish a partnership with Third Hospital in Zhengzhou, Henan, and locate an orthopedic surgeon and eye surgeon for short terms at the Yu Huang Ding Hospital in Yantai.

Provide a ceramics engineer to be placed by the petroleum and coal section of the

government energy ministry.

Opportunities like these aren't new. Southern Baptist China observers are aware of as many as 50 individual Southern Baptists who've already joined the growing ranks of "foreign experts" teaching and working in Chinese education and industry. Several Southern Baptist schools, including Baylor University in Texas and Wake Forest University in North Carolina, have established a variety of academic partnerships with Chinese institutions.

Cooperative Services International is a vehicle for encouraging and facilitating increased Southern Baptist involvement, Myers said. The office will focus on three priorities: 1) projects which enhance leadership training at all levels of society; 2) "people intensive" projects which provide opportunities for personal interaction and relationships; and 3) involvements which support Chinese Chris-

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Alta Woods picked for Evangelism-Bible meet



Vines

Bates



The Mississippi Baptist Evangelism-Bible Conference for 1986 will take place Feb. 3-4 at Alta Woods Baptist Church in Jackson.

The conference, consisting primarily of preaching and music services aimed at ministers who are usually on the platform rather than in the audience, annually draws more than a thousand Mississippi Baptists to its doors.

The conference theme is "Good News America—God Loves You." The conference theme ties in with the simultaneous revivals planned by Southern Baptist churches across America and throughout Mississippi in April.

The meeting begins Monday afternoon at 2 and concludes Tuesday evening.

Preachers this year include Lewis Drummond, Perry Sanders, Jerry Vines, Carl Bates, Joel Gregory, and a testimony from Iris Urrey.

Drummond is a professor at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Sanders is pastor of First Church, Lafayette, La.; Vines is co-pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Bates is a professor at Southern Seminary; Gregory is pastor of Travis Avenue Church, Ft. Worth, Tex.; and Urrey is a former convict who became a Christian and has for four years been giving her testimony to groups across the country.

The Evangelism-Bible Conference is jointly sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Sunday School and Evangelism Departments.

Disaster unit activated, serving in Mexico City

By Tim Nicholas

Tuesday morning a group of Mississippi Baptists were to begin learning to cook Mexican style. The men were volunteers on a special mission trip to Mexico City working on the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit sent there to help in the followup to an earthquake which devastated the largest city in the western world.

Following an invitation last Thursday evening by the Southern Baptist missionaries in Mexico, the Mississippi unit, operated by the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist

Convention Board, joined units from Oklahoma and Louisiana on a trek across country to Mexico City. A unit from Texas was already in place.

The Mississippi group which was to operate the mass feeding kitchen left Jackson Friday afternoon and arrived in Mexico City Monday at 3:30 a.m.

Tuesday morning a cooking school for the Baptist volunteers was scheduled to teach the volunteers food preparation Mexican style and to teach displaced persons how to

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The Baptist Record

Baptist nurse presumed dead in quakes; Mexico aid rushed

By Martha Skelton

MEXICO CITY (BP)—Baptists in Mexico City continued to help neighbors devastated by dual earthquakes as reports listed a 22-year-old Baptist nurse as missing and presumed dead, the first known Baptist casualty.

Thus far, surveys indicate damage to Baptist church buildings to be light.

Noemi Avila Betancur, a nurse in Mexico City, is the only Baptist church member known to be among

the 10,000 reported missing in the earthquakes. Officials list more than 4,600 dead, 8,000 injured, and 17,000 homeless in the city. An estimated 50,000 persons are without jobs—at least temporarily—according to reports. Damage estimates have reached \$1 to \$2 billion U.S.

Betancur, a member of Bethel Baptist Church, had just reported for the 7 a.m. shift at General Hospital when the first earthquake struck Sept. 19

Her body had not been recovered.

The 55 Baptist congregations in greater Mexico City were, for the most part, spared the horrible suffering of so many of their fellow citizens. Several churches reported some families without homes or jobs. One congregation, Emmanuel Baptist Church, reported structural damage to its building and may have to spend up to \$10,000 to repair its ceiling, ac-

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Mexico City's First Baptist Church, two blocks from the downtown area most affected by the earthquakes, became a center for gathering Baptist relief supplies and distributing them

around the city. Members and others took turns at the altar praying while some of the 235 people taking refuge in the building rested. (BP) PHOTO by Don Rutledge.

Baptist nurse presumed dead in quakes; Mexico aid rushed

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cording to Eldon Sturgeon, a Southern Baptist representative and member of the Baptist Aid Committee.

The 35 Southern Baptist representatives who live in the Mexico City area and work with the National Baptist Convention of Mexico in joint educational and church efforts were uninjured and reported no damage to their homes.

Baptists were among the first to respond to the disaster. At Mexico City's First Baptist Church, located two blocks from the hard-hit Paseo de la Reforma area but which sustained only plaster damage, church members, led by Martha Ortiz, pastor's wife, were serving food and coffee to neighbors and rescue workers by 1 p.m. Sept. 19. The Ortiz home is attached to the church.

A low-rent apartment building across from First Baptist Church fell, trapping many. The building housed 37 families, and 21 bodies were recovered from the ruins. Mrs. Ortiz was called upon to help identify bodies and comfort relatives and friends waiting to see if loved ones were rescued. She worked especially with mothers so distraught they hindered rescue workers by clawing in the rubble to find missing children.

The Baptist Aid Committee was organized Sept. 21 to coordinate the Baptist disaster response. Members are Librado Ramos, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Mexico City, committee president; Roberto Torres, convention executive director; Raul Castellanos, convention treasurer; Carlos Amaro, director of missions for the Central Baptist Association, which includes Mexico City; and Sturgeon, who also is associate executive director for the convention.

Money, food and clothing began to pour in from Baptist churches almost immediately. An emergency allocation of \$25,000 in hunger funds from the Foreign Mission Board reached the city the afternoon of the first quake. The funds made possible the

immediate purchase of foodstuffs for teams of volunteers at First Baptist Church and the Mexico Baptist Theological Seminary. The seminary, located in suburban Ciudad Satelite, was not seriously affected by the earthquake.

Another \$10,000 in hunger funds was sent Sept. 26 and Don Turner, FMB consultant in human needs, was to spend Sept. 26-27 in Mexico City, helping assess long range needs.

Because of its location, First Baptist Church was the hub of the Baptist crisis response from which food, medicine, and clothing were distributed to 20 shelters and other churches.

On Sept. 19 they fed 500 people. Three days later, 3,000 to 4,000 sandwich meals were being prepared daily at the seminary by volunteers from the student body, staff, faculty and nearby churches. In the mornings they sent large pots of cooked beans, rice and pasta to First Baptist Church, according to Minnie Hicks, Southern Baptist representative, who supervised the seminary's volunteers.

First Baptist's volunteers were cooking 1,500 meals a day in their kitchen in addition to what was brought in from other places, according to Pastor Juan Ortiz. The church also housed overnight 235 people. A medical dispensary offered treatment and preventive immunization by five doctors and 10 nurses. They treated approximately 500 people in the first few days.

The convention's media ministry was able to provide several thousand first lessons in the Bible correspondence courses to go with the sandwich meals prepared at the seminary; each sack included tracts and a little message slip with greetings from Baptists. By Sept. 23, stores of tracts and the correspondence courses were nearly exhausted. The Baptist media office ordered 30,000 more tracts and 20,000 more correspondence course lessons printed.

Other congregations in the city also

worked with people in their areas, and sent supplies and volunteers to work at the downtown church. For instance, Peniel Baptist Church, in the northwestern corner of the city, housed 56 people, fed more than 70 and operated a dispensary.

By Sept. 25, relief efforts were shifting from the immediate crisis of the first few days to the longer term effort to care for people who will be grieving, without jobs and homeless for some time to come.

For the first few days, spiritual guidance and counseling was informally offered as volunteers worked with individuals seeking help. By Sept. 24, the aid committee named Richard Garrett, director of the Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary, to spearhead a coordinated effort to offer spiritual comfort and Christian witness.

Garrett, a Southern Baptist representative, suspended seminary classes through the first week in October so the student could divide into spiritual counseling teams with pastors and members from Mexico City's churches. Teams are working 12-hour shifts at various shelters throughout the city and at churches offering relief and shelter.

Texas Baptist Men sent a field kitchen, jackhammers and other equipment, tents, injection guns and tetanus and typhoid serums. Relief units from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Oklahoma, left for Mexico the afternoon of Sept. 27. The aid committee plans to place the kitchens in neighborhoods with major needs that don't have a Baptist church to house relief efforts.

The crisis and Baptist response to it have given Mexican Baptists a higher profile in their capital city than they've had in the past. Radio broadcasts referred people to Baptists for help and mentioned by name the Baptist Aid committee. During the excavation of the building near the church, rescuers pulled out a baby along with a pile of personal effects. The workers told bystanders not to worry, they were taking personal effects to a safe place. As with one voice, an observer said, neighbors responded, "No, take them to the church; they are taking care of us."

Porfirio Bas, a television star and musician who has been a Baptist for one year, worked as a volunteer at the central distribution point all that first week. On Sept. 25, a television news crew interviewed Bas at First Baptist Church, giving him an opportunity to tell what was going on and give a word of witness.

(Martha Skelton and Don Rutledge of the Foreign Mission Board staff returned Sept. 26 from a 5-day survey of the earthquake area.)

No sound is more pleasing to the ear than the sound of someone admitting you're right.

The best thing to save for old age is yourself.

Gossip is what may be called ear pollution.



Paul Harrell, Mississippi Brotherhood director, (coat and tie facing camera) is interviewed by Jackson media during activation of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit to Mexico City. The unit had just undergone repairs following service in Pascagoula following Hurricane Elena.

Disaster unit activated, serving in Mexico City

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prepare simple foods with limited utensils.

Working through a Mexican Baptist disaster task force, the Mississippians and those from the other states will supervise teams of Mexican Baptist volunteers who will do the actual food preparation and serving.

The Mississippians will take time about in offering a verbal witness to those in the community. Mississippi was assigned to the suburb of Oceanic where missionary Larry Gay is assisting them. Baptists from Texas had reported more than 900 professions of faith from their witnessing efforts.

The first team with the unit included Jim Didlake, Brotherhood Department staffer and unit coordinator; James Smith, Hollandale; Gary

Keen, Philadelphia; Jerald Welch, Greenwood; Garvin Harrington, Philadelphia; Rod Moody, Jackson; Ed Bailey, Bill Lee, and Wayne Burnett, all of Brandon; Steve Griffin, Mantee; and Jason Alexander, Cleveland.

The second team scheduled to replace the first group today included Lee Castle of Slayden (who will be unit coordinator replacing Didlake); Bobby Redding, Clinton; Sam Vinson, Jackson; Stanley Stamps, missionary in residence at the Baptist Building on furlough from Honduras; Paul Hill, Robert King, and Creslyn White, all of Brandon; Ron Kirkland, Newton; and Jimmy Mosley, Hollandale.

Griffin, Burnett, and Alexander were to remain with the second team.

Paul Harrell, director of the Mississippi Brotherhood Department, was coordinating the group's efforts from the Jackson office.

The team, which can serve several thousand hot meals in an hour's time, was committed to stay for two weeks.

Former pastor charged with \$60,000 theft

MACON, Ga. (BP)—The former pastor of one of the largest Southern Baptist churches in Macon, Ga., was indicted by a Bibb County Grand Jury Sept. 5 on charges he stole almost \$60,000 from his congregation.

C. Michael Blizzard was indicted on 44 counts of "theft by taking" and two counts of "theft by conversion." He was pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church for four years until last January, when he resigned "for personal reasons."

After his arrest, Blizzard was released on \$60,000 bond.

He is not pastor of "any church that we have heard of" at this time, according to a spokesman at the Georgia Baptist Convention, but apparently still resides in Macon.



Mexican Baptists organized an aid committee to survey needs and see that relief supplies and money from the churches were meeting the needs of Mexico City residents facing lack of food, water, housing and sanitation after the earthquakes. Visiting one neighborhood shelter are, far left, Larry Gay, disaster coordinator for Southern Baptist representatives in the Mexico City area; far right, Roberto Torres, executive director of the National Baptist Convention of Mexico and member of the Baptist Aid Committee. (BP) PHOTO by Don Rutledge.

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Projects for China: Nutrition to ceramics

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tians and their ministries.

"Interaction among people is our greatest hope for maximum understanding of the Chinese church and the arena for maximum contribution of Southern Baptists to China," Myers said. "We will, no doubt, be involved in projects that require capital and other financial or equipment contributions, but our priority must be people to people."

Southern Baptists will also seek to work with other international Christian agencies involved in China, Myers stated. And he emphasized that Chinese officials will be informed of the Christian identity and motivation of each person or project. Such motivation is

generally respected in China, he said, as long as foreigners seek to serve and support China's modernization, and not attempt to control or manipulate Chinese.

Two events during the journey especially moved Myers and his group. The first was a visit to the former Monument Street Baptist Church building in Penglai, Shandong Province. Now used as a warehouse, the church once played a role in the ministry of legendary Southern Baptist missionary Lottie Moon, who died in 1912.

In a corner of the church courtyard, under a pile of debris and trash, a small stone monument to Moon had been found, dusted off, and moved back into the open. The Southern Bap-

tists joined hands around it and sang a hymn, attracting a crowd of curious onlookers.

Myers is working with local officials investigating possible restoration of the church building, which could then be used for worship by Christians in Penglai. "Cooperative Services International is committed to looking into the possibility of restoring this 'Lottie Moon' building to mark an important point in our Baptist history and to make a contribution to further the growth of the Christian church in China today," he said.

The second event was a short visit in rural Henan Province with a group of Christians who numbered 18 at the end of the difficult

years of the Cultural Revolution. Now they count some 4,000 believers in 12 meeting places. Two ordained pastors and numerous lay leaders guide these Christians, many of whom, though illiterate, memorize large blocks of Scripture by rote.

Myers said healings and other miracles, reportedly substantiated by independent authorities, were said to have occurred among these congregations. Similar accounts frequently emerge from populous Henan, where whole counties reportedly have become heavily Christian.

Fellowship with Christians there, said Myers, was "absolutely glorious."

Church library workshop is set for Oct. 25-26

The 14th annual Mississippi Baptist Church Media Library Organization Workshop will be Oct. 25-26 at First Church, McComb.

Registration will begin at 10 a.m. Friday; and the first general session will begin at 1 p.m., followed by workshop conferences. The meeting will close at noon on Saturday.

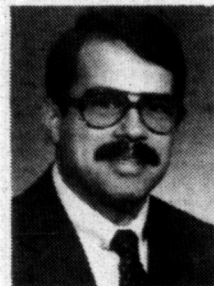
"Read-Open your World," the theme for the 1986 Church Media Library emphasis, will be featured throughout the two days.



Hill



Atkinson



Businaro

Workshop leaders from Nashville will be Jean Atkinson and Glynn Hill, both consultants with the Church Media Library Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, and Charles Businaro projects designer in the Church Architecture Department and co-author with Mancil Ezell of *Promotion Handbook for Church Libraries*. Ezelle is Secretary of the Church Media Library Department of the Sunday School Board.

Miss Atkinson's workshop will be Advanced Cataloging and Classification, designed to sharpen skills of the catalogers who already have had basics in this area.

Hill will lead the workshop on Media Education and Administration.

Businaro's conference on promotion will center around the theme "Open Your World-Tell Others."

Other out-of-state workshop leaders are Chip Turner and Kathy Sylvest, director and consultant, respectively, of the Media Services Department of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria, La.

Turner will deal with audiovisuals and BTN (Baptist Telecommunications Network) how to, when to and if to... use audiovisuals. He also will discuss the use and purpose of BTN and ACTS.

Book repair will be taught by Kathy Sylvest. She will teach how to mend

everything from torn pages to worn out book spines, as well as give ideas for preventative maintenance.

Beginning Technical Processes, Cataloging and Classification, a conference for the beginning media library process workers, will be taught by Beulah Lewis, director, and Janet Jordan, staff member, of First Church, Jackson, Media Library.

Marjorie Kelly will be the banquet speaker on Friday evening. Her subject will be "The Book I Would Love To Write." A former missionary to Israel, a speaker, and a conference leader; she is the wife of Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Her latest book, *The Gifted Woman I Am*, is in its third printing.

Following the banquet there will be nine mini conferences for media library workers.

Keith Williams, church media library consultant with the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, coordinates this meeting.

Officers for the MBCML Organization are Mrs. Patricia Robinson, Immanuel Church, Cleveland, president; Mrs. Laverne Gregory, FBC, Brandon, vice-president; Mrs. Dee McCordle, Sunshine Church, Pearl, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Mildred Abera, FBC, McComb, program chairman; Mrs. Donna Brock, Van Winkle Church, Jackson, historian; Mrs. Juanita Hight, FBC, Louisville, publicity chairman; and Mrs. Pat Ward, Meadow Grove Church, Brandon, past president.

Hank Lee Day set in Tunica

Sunday, Oct. 6, has been designated as Hank Lee Day at First Church, Tunica. Lee and his wife Linda and their three daughters will soon be leaving the States for Japan where they will be serving as missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board. Lee has been serving as pastor of First Church, Raceland, La.

Lee is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Lee of Tunica. Mrs. Lee is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Jackson of New Albany.

Pat Nowell is pastor of First Church, Tunica.

YES

Thousands of ministers and church employees are taking advantage of the Church Insurance Program.

This year, the Southern Baptist life and medical plan is better than ever before. So if you thought about enrolling in the past and didn't, now is the time. Or if you've ever been denied coverage, now you can get full life and medical benefits, no questions asked, except for health conditions diagnosed or treated within six months prior to your date of coverage.

To make it as easy as possible for you and your family to sign up for this excellent protection plan, we're having a special enrollment period from October 1-November 30.

You'll find that life rates have been reduced up to 30% for some age groups. Also, if you're enrolled in the plan from January to November next year, you won't be billed for your December medical premium—which means you get 1 month's medical insurance absolutely free!

The Church Insurance Program. The insurance protection you need at a price you can afford during our special 2-month Open Enrollment Period ending November 30. Call your Annuity Board at 1-800-262-0511, or call or visit your state annuity representative.



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Contract is approved for Gulfshore repairs

A contract to begin repair of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly was approved last week during an emergency meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Gulfshore, Mississippi Baptists' state assembly, was severely damaged during Hurricane Elena, sustaining loss of roofing and fresh water damage. Executive secretary Earl Kelly reported that estimates of damage run in excess of a half million dollars.

Roy Anderson Construction Company has been awarded a contract for \$142,624 to replace the roof on the auditorium. This is only a stopgap measure, said Kelly. The entire auditorium will have to be reworked.

MBCB church building consultant Neron Smith reported that the Gulfshore organ was totally destroyed, but that there was hope for the piano. He said there is a rebuilder

of pianos in Cincinnati who it is believed can rebuild the piano that was recently donated to Gulfshore by Parkway Baptist Church in Jackson. It will take a year to rebuild and will cost \$9,000, which insurance will cover. Smith said the rebuilder had successfully taken a piano from the Mississippi River and rebuilt it.

Kelly said that most repairs to Gulfshore are covered by insurance.

In other actions the Executive Committee awarded to Dove Roofing and Sales Co., a contract to reroof the Baptist student center at Itawamba Junior College, and contracted with Brinkman Carpet Supply for \$9,360 to install carpet at the University of Southern Mississippi Baptist student center.

Kelly reported that another Executive Committee meeting will be scheduled to take bids for other repairs at Gulfshore.

Seminar to help preachers in starting new pastorates

"Starting a new pastorate successfully" is the topic of a key leader seminar designed especially for pastors in new situations.

The seminar is set for the Baptist Building in Jackson, Oct. 17, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and is sponsored by the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Julius Thompson, director.

Dwayne Conner, a pastoral ministries consultant in the Church Administration Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board will be teaching the book *The First Two*

Years which was written by Bruce Grubbs.

The book deals with pastors in transition, beginning pastors, pastors who have recently moved to a new church field, and persons interested in helping pastors begin new pastorates.

Promotional materials note the seminar will help a pastor "develop a tenure which encourages church growth."

There will be a \$10 charge for this conference which includes materials and lunch. Pre-registration is needed. Write Thompson at Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205 prior to Oct. 11.



Med Center BSU to feature Henderson

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's Baptist Student Union features Guy Henderson, director of evangelism with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, as speaker Oct. 10 and 11, during MBMC's Religious Emphasis Week. The programs on Thursday and Friday are from noon until 1 p.m. in the John Busey Auditorium and also feature special music and student testimonies. The public is invited. Involved in planning the Religious Emphasis Week are, from left, Sharon Frazier, respiratory therapy student; Lisa Cottrell, standing, radiology student; and Kathy Bearden, director of student activities.

Ministers can generate \$3 for one by joining expanded annuity plan

Dallas — Mississippi Baptist ministers and members of the church staff may generate three dollars for each dollar they contribute to the expanded retirement program administered by the Annuity Board.

A new matching feature in the expanded Church Annuity Plan is designed to give plan members an incentive to plan their retirement and to increase their retirement benefits, according to Mississippi Annuity Representative William H. Sellers.

Sellers said participating churches will match members' contributions two-for-one, up to 10% of pay, while state conventions will match half the churches' contributions, up to \$420 a year for each eligible member.

"Ministers and employees make their contributions first. Their contributions will trigger the churches' contributions," he said.

The expanded Church Annuity Plan has been adopted by the Mississippi Baptist Convention and must be adopted by the local church before the minister and other staff members can enroll. Sellers noted that the convention unanimously approved the plan in 1983.

"The associations that participate in the present Church Annuity Plan for the directors of missions are scheduled to adopt this Fall. Mississippi will be the first of two states where the churches will also adopt it this fall. The plan becomes effective on January 1, 1988," he said.

Sellers said one of the major changes in the expanded Plan is that churches are being asked to adopt the retirement program as a matter of church policy.

As in the past, ministers will be eligible for contributions from the state convention. But now the states are more than doubling their maximum contribution for each plan member from \$200 to \$420 a year. The first \$210 each year will fund the protection section of the plan which includes supplemental disability and survivor benefits. Any additional mat-

ching money will be credited to the individual's retirement income account.

Another improvement to the plan is that for the first time, paid lay personnel may be eligible to receive matching contributions from the state conventions, too, provided they are working 20 or more hours per week and have completed three years of church or denominational service.

Sellers said that in early October pastors will receive personal letters and packets about the plan. They will be asked to provide names of appropriate church leaders who can be contacted and asked to lead in their churches' adoption of the plan. The Annuity Board, in cooperation with the Baptist state conventions, will provide explanations of the plan.

DINO IN CONCERT



Tuesday, October 15

7:30 P. M.

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BR2

USM-BSU plans reunion

The Baptist Student Union at the University of Southern Mississippi is holding USM-BSU Homecoming Reunion on Saturday, Nov. 2. The reunion coincides with the University's football homecoming date.

Open house will be held at the Baptist Student Center from 2:30-4:30 p.m. with a short program at 3:30 p.m. Box suppers will be available by reservation for \$3. Tickets for the USM-East Carolina football game at 6 p.m. are also available (as BSU block seating) for \$11 each, if ordered by Oct. 19.

The University of Southern Mississippi is celebrating its 75th anniversary. The USM-BSU is celebrating over 50 years of ministry on campus and 15 years in the present student center.

For more information or to make reservations, please write USM-BSU, SS Box 10005, Hattiesburg, Miss. 39406 or call the BSU office at (601) 264-5160.



Milton Ferguson (left), president of Midwestern Seminary, shows a new bronze medallion of the seminary seal to trustee chairman Kermit McGregor, director of public relations for the Baptist Children's Village in Jackson, Miss. Behind McGregor is a wall hanging of the seminary seal, created by an Ethiopian rug weaver in 1973, during Ferguson's first year as president. V. Lavell Seats, Midwestern professor of missions and former missionary to Nigeria, commissioned the rug's weaving.

Midwestern unveils seal, cast in gold, bronze

Kansas City, Mo. — "We have come today from many places and from many walks of life. In a genuine respect, this is a kind of family reunion, for there are many parts of our family that are gathered here today," N. Larry Baker, academic dean at Midwestern Seminary here, greeted guests attending the seminary's recent fall convocation.

"So it is a time of reunion, a time of gathering, a time of sharing and a time of celebration," Baker said.

And for at least one person, the opening convocation for 1985-86 was also a complete surprise.

Although seminary President Milton Ferguson was featured convocation speaker, he knew nothing else about the program until he stood in the seminary auditorium before a capacity crowd. Among those present were area ministers, adjunctive and elected faculty, staff, students and some seminary trustees, including trustee chairman Kermit McGregor. McGregor is director of public relations for the Baptist Children's Village in Jackson, Miss.

Before Ferguson's address, Baker called the president to the podium to present him the official seminary seal, cast in a gold-plated medallion.

Baker then unveiled a larger bronze medallion, mounted on a wooden plaque. The medallions are the first metal art piece created of the seminary's seal. The seal bears Midwestern's official scripture, II Corinthians 5:18-20 and motto, "In the heart of America for the hearts of the world."

Baker said the seminary had adopted the official seal in its early days, under the leadership of Millard Berquist, the first president. Midwestern was founded in 1957.

Together Ferguson and Baker presented a medallion to Past President Berquist. "No one has dreamed bigger dreams, worked longer and harder and was more faithful to the dream of Midwestern Seminary than Millard Berquist. He and those who worked with him put the seal together, chose the scripture, named the motto and placed us on the right course," said Ferguson.

Ferguson and Baker also conferred bronze medallions upon each elected Midwestern faculty member. For the 1985-86 academic year, Midwestern has a total of 20 elected faculty members, one visiting professor, three emeriti, and 36 adjunctive faculty members.

First, Jackson, volunteers find "sardine syndrome" in Jamaican VBS

A group of 16 Mississippi Baptists were among the more than 470 volunteers who participated in a week of Vacation Bible Schools, medical and dental clinics, and construction projects in Jamaica in July.

Workers taught about 20,000 children in VBS and also led 2,148 people to first time professions of faith in Christ through evangelistic rallies and personal witnessing.

The 16 Mississippians were all from First Church, Jackson, and worked in four of the Jamaican churches; St. Ann's Bay, Seville Mission, Liberty, and Lime Hall. Their VBS enrollments totaled 954 with 50 professions of faith.

Several volunteers said they were staggered by leading VBS classes with 40 to 100 children. Those who

worked with children who normally attend a Baptist church said the children were well-trained in Bible. "These kids here will astonish you at how well they know their Bible," said Cindy Francisco, of First Church, Jackson, and a reading teacher there.

Rusty Barksdale, minister to singles at First Church, Jackson, said he was preaching at youth services (which includes anyone up to age 30) and while reading the Scriptures, "they would be going along with you" reciting from memory the verses.

Many of the churches only had one room for the VBS work. The Mississippi group at St. Ann's Bay had a 40 by 80 foot room with about 130 children in it in three classes with no partitions and 200 adults lined up in a hallway for dental work.

Danger of false prophets

(Continued from page 2)
ed. When they are exposed in one church, they merely move on to the next.

The false prophet can tune his Gospel to fit any bracket. Contrary to what most of us would like to believe, he is not limited to the left wing. In many conventional pulpits the "wandering stars" sneak in when we are unaware. It is from these vantage points they are most successful in destroying the power of the church.

How can one recognize a false prophet? It is not easy. They are masters of deceit and have the talent of Lucifer to appear as angels of Light. However here are five things that may alert a wonderful Christian.

(1) The false prophet is driven by a super ego and a notorious lust for power. While a true minister will exalt God and prefer his brother to himself, the false prophet will use God and his brother to exalt himself.

(2) The false prophet is a double-minded man, filled with inconsistency. Out of one side of his mouth he will declare God is all powerful, all knowing, and perfectly just. Out of the other side he will attribute to God all

his own ignorance, injustice, and prejudice.

(3) He doesn't draw a congregation closer to God. He subjugates them tighter in his own control. Instances of immorality usually increase in congregations under his influence. Although God is always on his lips, his heart is far from God. The more sin laden and spiritually blind a people are, the better they serve his purpose.

(4) He will use sex as a means of control. The method used will vary depending on the individual. Such men are propelled by a strong desire to dominate, which often surfaces in sexual interest and behavior unbecoming to a minister of God.

(5) He will gain more than normal pulpit authority over his congregation. Using God's word as a sham, he will reinforce all their old prejudice and carnal thinking. The gainsayer will never rebuke those who amen his every word regardless of how wicked they live. All his rebuke and condemnation will fall on those outside his control. He is wise enough to decipher the attitudes of his people and unethical enough to preach for his own profit, just what they long to hear.

Ruby Ulmer lives in Heidelberg.

Priceville man dies of burns

Vardaman Alexander, 62, who was seriously burned in an August butane explosion at a church north of Tupelo, died Wednesday, Sept. 27, while at the Mississippi Firefighter's Memorial Burn Center in Greenville.

Both Alexander and Jerry Nolan, who also was burned in the explosion, were hospitalized at the burn center since the incident. Nolan is still in critical condition, a spokesman at the burn center said.

The explosion occurred Aug. 25 shortly before 10 a.m. services at Priceville Baptist Church. Alexander and Nolan had gone into the church's basement to prepare for their Sunday School classes.

Give the world what it needs and it will supply yours.

Bailey Smith is entering evangelism

DEL CITY, Okla. (BP) — Bailey E. Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, here since 1973, announced his resignation Sept. 15. It will be effective Sept. 29.

Smith is entering full-time evangelism. Two years ago Smith and John McKay, former singer from the James Robison Evangelistic Team, formed an evangelistic association.

Two years ago, Smith was said to be receiving as many as 200 requests a day asking him to speak in a revival, a crusade, or a special event.

Del City First Southern is in the midst of a relocation project and has a 7,700 seat auditorium under construction on an 80 acre site just west of Tinker Air Force Base. The \$13 million structure is on schedule and will be ready for occupancy next Easter Sunday.

He was elected president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma in 1979. In June 1980 he was chosen president of the Southern Baptist convention and was reelected in Los Angeles in 1981.

Position Available

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR: A new church-related agency in Phoenix, Arizona (Southern Baptist) seeks an experienced development professional to initiate and direct a comprehensive fundraising program with local, regional and national scope. Position requirements include history of active membership in a Southern Baptist congregation, bachelor's degree (graduate work desirable), documented experience in personal solicitation and donor relations, and solid writing, speaking and organizational skills. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience and skills. Send cover letter and resume to: Search committee, Metro Phoenix Church Properties, Inc., Attn: Dr. Charles Brannon, 4622 N. 35th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85017.

January Bible Study Clinic

Tuesday, October 15

9:30 - 3:30

Mississippi College

(Hall of Fame Room)

ADULTS: Dr. Bill Tolar — Hebrews

YOUTH: Karen Dockrey — Deuteronomy

This clinic is for individuals who plan to teach January Bible Study.

Noon Meal Complimentary
Of Mississippi College

RESERVATION FOR NOON MEAL
(Must be received by Friday, October 11)

Name _____

Address _____

Church _____ Association _____

Yes, I will need a lunch reservation. _____

No, I will not need a lunch reservation. _____

Signed _____ Phone number _____

I will attend the Adult Conference OR the Youth Conference (Circle One)

RETURN TO LARRY SALTER, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

October 6

Bold Mission Launch Day: '85-90

Sunday, Oct. 6, 1985, marks the beginning of the third phase of Bold Mission Thrust emphasis. This will be a day to focus the attention of our Baptist family on the three goals of the Bold Mission Thrust: Reach People, Develop Believers, Strengthen Missions.

The primary purpose of Bold Mission Thrust launch emphasis, 1985-90, will be to mobilize churches to plan, involve, and celebrate projects designed to move the church toward its goals of reaching people, developing believers, and strengthening missions. Strengthening missions will be the primary focus of launch efforts in 1986-86.

Church leaders will share



By Julius C. Thompson

goals and action plans with the congregation on Oct. 6. Pastors will review events and victories from the past year, and call the congregation to a new commitment to the goals of Bold Mission Thrust in concert with the beginning of the new church year.

At the Norfolk Convention in 1976 Southern Baptists approved the concept of Bold Mission Thrust and made a visionary commitment to share the story of God's love with all the world by the year 2000. Taking the Gospel to all the world has been God's imperative command for believers of every generation. But now, for the first time, our generation has set a timetable for ourselves. We have said, "We will do it by the year 2000." This is no ordinary challenge.

The following ideas have been suggested for consideration on Oct. 6: Baptist Men's prayer breakfast. Baptist

tist men will gather for prayer and enlightenment on the key role laymen can play in the challenge of Bold Missions. The program will focus not only on an explanation of Bold Mission Thrust but also on practical ways for the men to be personally involved in missions.

Sunday School. The Sunday School director or department director can share dreams, goals, and challenges for Sunday School for the coming year. The focus could be on the continuing reaching people goals and the role the Sunday School will play in reaching people. The Sunday School's effect to enroll ten million people by 1990 will be known as Challenge 1990.

Morning worship service. Worship on Launch Day could feature a biblical message from the pastor on the theme passage of Bold Mission Thrust 1985-90, "We are laborers together with God," (1 Corinthians 3:9) Sing mission hymns, invite WMU director and Brotherhood director to read the Great Commission, and call the church to pray for missions. Include in the invitation a challenge for persons to respond to God's call to ministry vocation and a call for short-term mission volunteers.

Church Training. The fall quarter studies for Church Training deal with "Lordship and Servanthood." Also, give a brief introduction to the five-year Developing Believers emphasis as presented in the March issue of Church Training magazines.

Evening worship. An excellent feature to include in the worship service is the new Bold Mission Thrust musical "2000 A.D." written by Forbis/Hayes and produced by Van Ness Press. A church could also feature mission hymns and testimonies from persons who have participated in mission projects this past summer.

Suggested worship activities will be found in the July and September issue of the Church Administration and the July issue of Church Musician and the May, August, September issues of the Pastors' Mailout.

Bold Mission Launch Day emphasis could culminate in an after-church fellowship with the pastor and church leaders reviewing the events and victories of the past year and a focus on the goals and action plans for 1985-86. Make this an occasion of genuine fellowship celebration and renewal for a new beginning.

Julius Thompson is director of the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department.

"Strengthen Missions" will be primary focus for 1985-86

By Julius C. Thompson

In each church, it is suggested that October 6, 1985 be a day of Bold Mission Thrust exposure through Sunday School, worship services, Church Training, and after-church fellowship. Activities of the day will focus on the goals and plans for the 1985-90 Bold Missions Thrust emphasis. Goals are grouped around three areas: Reach People, Develop Believers, Strengthen Missions.

Because the Reach People and Develop Believers emphasis areas were launched in the 1982-85 period, Strengthen Missions will be the primary focus of launch efforts in 1985-86.

The following suggestions are offered to aid churches and our joint mission endeavor to strengthen

missions:

1. The pastor can preach on great missions texts found in the scriptures.
2. Elect and train a Church Missions Development Council.
3. Lead the church to focus the intercessory prayer concern for the goals of Bold Mission Thrust and pray for missionaries.
4. Call out the called to career missionary service and short-term mission service.
5. Involve the whole church in weeks of prayer for state missions, home missions and foreign missions.
6. Lead the church to get involved in specific mission projects.
7. Lead church to increase giving through Cooperative Program,

special mission offerings, and associational missions.

8. Invite furloughing missionaries, retired missionaries, and/or denominational leaders to preach and share with the congregation.

9. Lead church to participate in Planned Growth in Giving.

10. Encourage lay persons to attend associational meetings, the state convention Nov. 11-13, and Southern Baptist Convention.

Missions for Southern Baptists is as natural as breathing. And Strengthen Missions 1985-86 will give us a new focus on the mandate from our Lord to go into all the world with the story of God's love.



Hillsboro men repair Village cottage

Recently a group of men from Hillsboro Baptist Church's Baptist Men's group spent a Saturday working at the Baptist Children's Village in Jackson. The men did repairs on Cathey Cottage in one of the bathrooms putting down new flooring and did ceiling repairs in the hallways.

Those working on the trip included from left: Marco Sigrest, Wayne Cox, Sam Fortenberry, Paul Conn, pastor Ricky Gray, and Larry Driskell.

Mississippi Baptist Seminary classes begin in 26 locations

Registration for 1986 fall classes at Mississippi Baptist Seminary, 3160 Lynch Street, Jackson took place on Oct. 1, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Classes began Oct. 2.

Students who are preparing for ministry in churches as pastors will be enrolled in the diploma of theology program. This is a four-year, 96-semester hour program of study. The curriculum is organized according to eight general areas of study: biblical studies; historical studies; theological, philosophical and ethical studies; the practice of ministry; Christian education; psychology and counseling; the sociology of religion; and the Church in global context.

Laypersons can enroll in the certificate program for church music, biblical studies, or Christian educa-

tion. The persons enrolled in the two-year program would complete eight courses.

This fall marks Mississippi Baptist Seminary's 43rd year in providing classes in 26 locations in Mississippi for persons interested in upgrading skills needed in the ministry of the church.

Conversations are presently underway with New Orleans Seminary with hopes of offering the associate of divinity degree in the near future, according to Dick Brogan, president.

Eighty-four persons received academic awards during the May, 1985 Commencement.

For additional information, inquiries may be addressed to: Hickman Johnson, academic dean; Box 10208, Jackson, Miss. 39209 or

phone (601) 944-1741.

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary is a cooperative joint venture of National and Southern Baptists. It is owned and operated by trustees elected by the two denominations in Mississippi.

Fasting considered

WASHINGTON (BP)—A congressional joint resolution would encourage Americans to fast one or more meals and contribute the unspent food money for hunger relief.

The proposed bill would designate Nov. 2, 1985—the Sunday before Thanksgiving—as National Day of Fasting to Raise Funds to Combat Hunger.

Revival Dates

First, Yazoo City: Oct. 6-9; Russell Dilday, president, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, evangelist; L. Graham Smith, associate pastor/administrator, Morrison Heights, Clinton, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. James F. Yates, pastor.

First, Mount Olive: Oct. 6-10; Grady Cothen, evangelist; Dan Hall, music

evangelist; services Sunday 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Mon.-Thurs. 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Kenneth E. Walters, pastor.

Emmanuel, 4405 Sagamore, Jackson: Oct. 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Sun.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Joe Royalty, evangelist; Chuck Pittman, music; Frank Mixon, pastor.

Have character, don't be one.

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mc williams

September's close

Thank you for last week, Lord.
For the cool September mornings, wind in the treetops, ripples on the lake, yellow sweetgum spears among still-green oaks, black-eyed susans by a curving roadside, bittersweet per-simmons, a heron on long legs silhouetted at dusk.

Thank you for four days in Cabin 5 by Lake Enid, in celebration of 30 years that W.D. and I have shared.

Thank you for the Monday morning rain, which gave me time to bake brownies and sort old photos and read Agatha Christie.

Thank you for the Monday afternoon thunderstorm and for bringing W.D. safely back across the bay in his fishing boat beneath the lightning bolts. And thank you for the beauty of the storm. I watched in awe the dark gray cloud shadow glide across the dimly sunlit water, a wall of white rain directly behind it, and in front of it the wind skipping from wave to wave, kicking up whitecaps and rushing them toward the shore.

I watched the wind bend the yellow and lavender wildflowers on the bank and flail the limbs on the trees. The rain arrived at my feet and spattered across our screened porch, just as W.D. came rushing in from the lake. Then after the storm was over and the water all quiet and still, he launched the boat again. We watched the sunset from it, mirrored in blue and gold and aqua.

Thank you for the nice visit with Betty and Charlie Harris. And thank you that none of the clothes in the stores fit me when we went shopping in Water Valley. That helped me save my money.

Though the wind was too strong for fishing, we did take a boat ride or two. Thank you for W.D.'s thoughtfulness in tying two of his handkerchiefs together to make a scarf for me, so I wouldn't have the earache.

Thank you for the new knock in the van motor. It kept us from driving very far and helped us sit on the patio in the sun on Wednesday and count our blessings, on the 30th anniversary of our marriage.

Thank you for the hot oatmeal breakfasts that I cooked and the eggs and toast that W.D. cooked; for the invigorating swim in the pool the last hour before it closed for the season; for the strength to walk the hiking trail, with W.D.'s help over the rough spots; for the crisp fried frog legs we ate at the park restaurant for our anniversary dinner. Thank you that I didn't run over the dead snake with my bicycle, for I might have had a heart attack.

Thank you for the stomach virus I got, and the sinus infection, the toothache, the backache, and the fever. I don't know yet why I should be thankful for having them on my vacation week. Maybe I needed to take my medicine, and rest. That's what Dr. Reynolds said on Friday anyhow. Maybe I needed to know that my plans for myself might not always be the best plans.

I do thank you, Lord, most fervently, for all of last week, for the glorious moments and the flawed moments —

Just as I thank you, Lord, most fervently, for my husband, W.D., and for the 30 years that we have laughed—and cried—and loved together.

Thursday, October 3, 1985

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Letters to the Editor

Where the dollar goes

Editor:

Would it be possible for you to print a breakdown of how the money is allocated that comes into the Mississippi Baptist Convention? It seems that years ago the Baptist Record did this occasionally. Something like the illustration in the U.S. Income Tax booklet would suffice—where the tax dollar comes from and where it goes. Folks would only be interested in where it goes. This just might have a positive effect on people.

Maurice E. Estes
Steens

I agree, and we try to do that. Have you checked Page 8 of the Sept. 5 issue? That's what we had in mind. If it is not what you had in mind, let us know.—Editor.

Obscenity on satellites

Editor:

I've been thinking a long time about the filth that is pushed on us on TV, and wondering why doesn't someone who has authority do something about it.

I read this column from "Ann Landers" a few weeks ago, and this is what she said.

"Congress has passed the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, which specifically prohibits cablecasting of obscene programs." Maybe if they can do something about cable, they can about satellite, and regular programs that are not fit to watch.

She said write to Attorney General Edwin Meese III, Dept. of Justice, Constitution Ave. and 10th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20530.

Complain about the garbage that is

being dumped into our homes, and ask him to instruct the U.S. Attorneys all over the country to enforce the law.

She also said the parents and PTA and church groups, to bombard the local cable company with complaints. The cable companies are motivated by profit. If complaints and cancellations begin to pour in, they will clean up their act.

I believe every concerned person should act now.

Is it possible for the Baptist Record to urge every church to have petitions made and get the concerned people to sign them, and send them to Washington?

If there is anything you can do I will appreciate it.

Someone needs to start doing something.

Mrs. Mae Herrin
Columbia

Thanks from Gulf Coast

Editor:

I want to express my appreciation to the Mississippi Baptist family for all the assistance that we received following Hurricane Elena. Paul Harrell, from the Brotherhood Department, was in touch with us all during the week while the storm tried to decide where it would make landfall. Early on Monday, after the storm hit our area, he advised us that disaster vans were on their way from our own state and from the neighboring states of Louisiana and Alabama. Jim Didlake, of the Brotherhood staff, was especially helpful as he guided the local operation of the disaster vans. Paul Harrell manned the telephones in Jackson to co-ordinate the efforts of volunteers and keep the food supplies available each day. It was most obvious that the civil defense people and the Red Cross knew of the capabilities of our Baptist folk and welcomed their presence. Our Baptist people were the only mainline denomination involved.

The Baptist Record was here in the person of Tim Nicholas and he did a superb job of telling the story in pictures and words so that the people might respond to the needs in our area.

Dr. Earl Kelly made a special visit to the coast to inquire about damage to our churches and homes as well as Gulfshore Assembly.

A host of volunteers came from across the state to assist in a variety of tasks like temporary repair to churches and homes, tree and debris removal, etc. Most of the tree and debris removal was done for the elderly, widows, and handicapped people who could not handle such tasks.

I have always had deep appreciation for the way our state Convention leadership and the larger Mississippi Baptist family respond to disaster. But today I know again, from experience, what the disaster funds from our State Mission Offering and the host of volunteers mean in a time of need.

Thank you, Mississippi Baptists! Bobby C. Perry, executive director Gulf Coast Baptist Association

Yazoo County group spreads Bibles, paint in Kansas

A group of 10 Yazoo County Baptists from six churches conducted a one-week volunteer mission trip to Lyndon and Topeka, Kansas on July 20-27. This was the second mission team sent from Yazoo County this summer. The group led a four-day revival in First Southern Baptist Church of Lyndon, and painted the church building. In addition to the revival and painting done in Lyndon, the group performed a scripture distribution and survey in the community.

Also during the week they painted New Hope Baptist Church of Topeka and the Baptist Communities Ministry Center, a social ministries center in West Topeka. Lathan Davis of Ogden Church, a paint contractor, provided the paint sprayer and equipment for these projects. On Thursday, with a rented generator to power the sprayer, they painted a dormitory building at Bray Assembly Grounds (an associational campground in the

development stages) at Perry, Kansas.

Bible distribution and survey work were also accomplished in the inner city area around New Hope Baptist Church. The women of the group headed up the Bible distribution and survey projects, as well as cleaning the buildings inside and painting the trim work on the outside.

Team members included: Petie and Margaret Neely, and Al and Sandra Plunkett, Concord Church; Ladell and Claudette Blanton, First Church, Yazoo City; Lathan Davis, Ogden Church; Mrs. Viola Campbell, Bethlehem Church; and J. Courtney and Sally Selvy of Benton Church. Selvy is the Yazoo County Baptist associational missions development director. He coordinated the Kansas trip with Ken Townsend, director of missions in Kaw Valley Association, Topeka.

Covington-Jeff Davis hosts World Missions Conference

Eighteen Southern Baptist Churches of the Covington-Jefferson Davis Association participated in a World Mission Conference Sept. 22-29.

The World Missions Conference began with a rally at the Family Life Center, at Lone Star Church, Sept. 21. The Association Adult Choir presented selections from the musical "Bold Missions."

The program, sponsored by the association, is designed to acquaint the people with the mission effort in a cooperative program of ministries at home and abroad. It challenges the church to become more actively involved in their support of the more than 3,300 missionaries serving 102 foreign countries and 3,400 engaged in meeting physical and spiritual needs of people in all 50 states of the nation.

Conferences were conducted in Covington Association on Sunday, Sept. 22, Wednesday at each of the follow-

ing churches: Collins, Ora, Lone Star, Salem, Union South, Mt. Horeb, Cold Springs, Rock Hill, Mt. Olive, Calhoun.

In Jefferson Davis Association conferences began on Thursday night, Sept. 26 through Sept. 29. The following churches are participating: Prentiss, Oak Grove, Phalti, Bassfield, Carson, Society Hill, Whitesand, Old Hebron.

The foreign missionaries included: R. T. Buckley, Bangladesh; Edd and Freda Trott, Brazil; Delores Ballard, Colombia, South America; Hugh E. Provost, Yemen; Ronnie Parker, Brazil; Roger Swann, Tanzania.

Home missionaries participating were: Charles Wilson, Christian social ministries; David Aker, director of missions; Elbert R. Isbell, Indian ministry.

Ken Stringer, is director of missions,

GOOD NEWS AMERICA GOD LOVES YOU

By Tom Sumrall

We are thankful for the vision of Southern Baptists as we continue to think and pray boldly. Such is necessary if we are ever to do boldly.

We consider the simultaneous revival effort in 1986 a bold move, with one voice and matched involvement saying, "Good News, America! God loves you." This is surely what we need to be saying and what America needs to hear.

We are participating because of the JOY of COOPERATION. We gain from the unity of joining together. Jesus sent the apostles out, "two by two..."

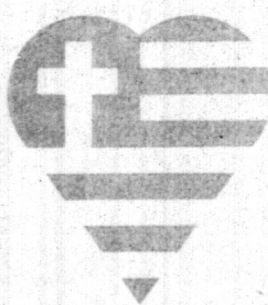
We are participating because of the PEACE of COMMITMENT. We are then able to say, "we care." We are making ourselves available.

We are participating because of the HOPE of CONQUEST. We seek to win men's hearts, to snatch them from the burning. This is their only offer.

Finally, we are participating because of the LOVE of COMPASSION. Jesus saw fields white to harvest. He was moved to do something about it. Now we must go to tell America what he has done.

Tom Sumrall is pastor of First Church, New Albany.

(All churches are invited to participate in the 1986 nationwide simultaneous revivals. Suggested dates are April 6-13 for South Mississippi and April 20-27 for North Mississippi. For details, contact Guy Henderson, Evangelism Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.)



Sumrall

Baptist team from South Africa braves danger to deliver aid

By Mary Jane Welch

DURBAN, South Africa (BP)—An international team of Baptists living in South Africa braved a dangerous road into Mozambique to deliver food, clothing, seeds, and soap to needy people.

Team members from South Africa, the United States, Portugal, and England traveled a road which had been the site of a guerrilla attack the previous week to deliver 50 tons of corn meal, 10 tons of sugar, five tons of beans, 12,000 bars of soap, 1,000 sets of vegetable seeds, many boxes of clothing, and other food and supplies.

Mozambique was one of the first African countries to witness thousands of starvation deaths during the African drought. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization says conditions there have improved but warns some food shortages will persist for at least another year.

In Mozambique, two Brazilian Baptist missionaries and members of First Baptist Church, Maputo, helped distribute about half the goods to needy members of the church and its fellowships in surrounding communities. Most of the rest was distributed to needy people in communities designated by the Mozambican government. Small amounts were set aside for uses such as the new theological college opening in the building of the Mahlangalene fellowship.

Men, women and children eagerly grabbed loaves of bread as team members distributed them on the streets, said Dwight Reagan, Southern Baptist missionary who served with South African Indian pastor Patrick John as co-leader of the trip. Many children began devouring the bread as soon as they got it, he said.

Sometimes the press of the crowd made further distribution impossible and the team had to move to another area, he said. Many crowds were orderly but even the soldiers keeping order retreated to the safety of a truck when one group of women saw soap was available. The women had watched calmly as cornmeal, beans, and sugar were unloaded.

The 13 team members faced difficulty in finishing distribution because visas for eight more team members had been denied by the Mozambican government. Those who went included eight South African Baptists, a Portuguese Baptist missionary, two British citizens who had

become Christians while living in South Africa, and three Southern Baptist missionaries, Mark Morris of Memphis, Tenn., and Dwight and Lila Reagan of Houston.

The international character of the team was reflected also in the sources of gifts taken into Mozambique. Southern Baptist hunger relief funds provided \$15,000 to buy food and the Baptist Northern Association in South Africa forwarded funds from the Baptist World Alliance. A number of Natal churches gave both funds and goods.

The team went to preach and to help strengthen the Mozambican churches, as well as to help the needy, said Reagan. They were pleased to discover a new fellowship at Boarne where a similar team had delivered food and preached a year earlier.

At each distribution point, the team held an evangelistic service before distributing goods. They worked with

First Baptist Church, Maputo, which has started eight new fellowships in the Maputo area and three in other areas since 1975.

Some communities were unresponsive to the gospel, but most people listened attentively, even in deep concentration, said Reagan.

One very tall young man at Boquisso listened with a deep frown and wrinkled brow. "I thought he was strongly opposed to the gospel," said Reagan. "But when his family was the first chosen to receive food his doubting frown unraveled into a broad grin. As the truck drove away he was the last to offer a powerful departing handshake."

Team members already are making plans for a similar trip next year's said Reagan.

Mary Jane Welch writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

Devotional

He can repair any dents

By Chris Burrows

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new (II Corinthians 5:17).

Directly across the road from our church property is a junkyard, filled with old cars.

At one time, when these cars rolled off the assembly line, they were objects of adoration and pride. When new, these cars commanded top dollars, had the 'new' smell, and promised to deliver miles of reliable service.

Today, their position in the junkyard does not give a hint to once-great potential. Due to time, carelessness, and circumstances, these defunct machines have been reduced to supplying parts for other cars. These junk autos can never be restored to their original glory. In fact, with the passing of each day, the cars become less valuable.

In many ways, human lives are comparable to the cars in the junk heap. The passage of time and the ravages of sin have reduced what was once a life filled with high expectations and dreams.

Thankfully, we have a Savior capable of rescuing lives from the junk heap. Unlike the cars across the road, Jesus Christ is capable and willing to restore our lives to mint condition.

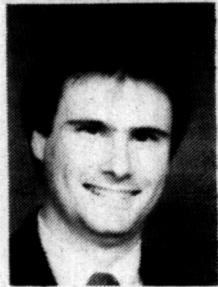
Initially, Jesus straightens our steering mechanism before providing us with a driver, the Holy Spirit, to prevent any further needless damage. While fine tuning the engine, he can repair any dents caused from earlier mistakes.

Finally, the inside is completely cleaned, which in turn, makes the exterior more attractive. All individuals coming in contact with this renewed work of life recognize the difference.

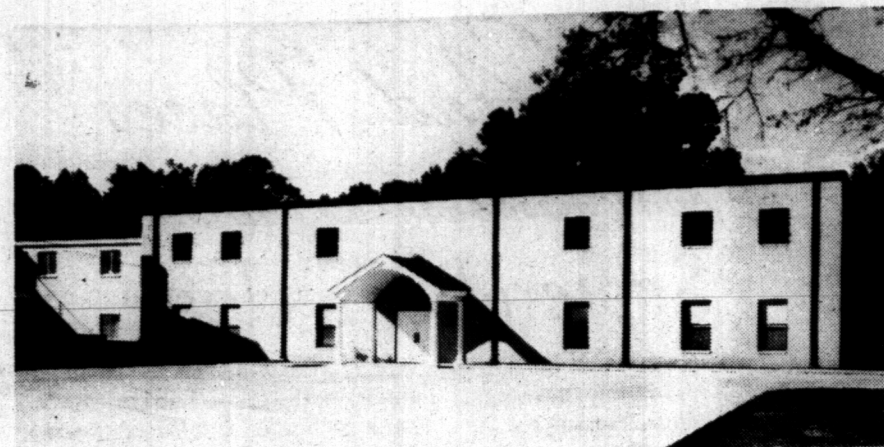
Perhaps the most impressive aspect of this overhaul is the bill. When an individual brings his life in repentance and faith, the bottom line is no charge. You see, the price to make our lives new has already been paid in full on the cross by Jesus Christ.

All to help keep us out of life's junkyard.

Burrows is pastor, Dorsey Church, Mantachie, and staff writer, Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, Tupelo.



Burrows



Tylertown to celebrate debt payment

On Oct. 6, Tylertown Church members will have an open house and debt retirement day celebration for their new family life center.

Nathan Graves, finance chairman of the building committee, describes it as "great, wonderful, that our church could work together and in such a short time pay off some \$450,000. At the same time, we are meeting our normal yearly church budget which is approximately \$240,000."

Long range planning for the family life center started in October, 1976, when Mel C. Craft was pastor.

In 1979 Bartis R. Harper became pastor of Tylertown Baptist Church. Graves said nothing concrete was done in 1979 or 1980, and the church had a little under \$19,000 from donations by 1981.

That same year Tylertown Baptists initiated a three-year victory program with pledge and promise cards to raise the needed money. Graves says as of Sept. 19, the church owes only \$34,015.

The Family Life Center's contract building agreement was \$396,060. The plans called for 10,000 square feet of space, gym section, crafts room, game room, kitchen, and parlor. Later, in addition to the actual contract price, would be kitchen and other equipment and a parking area to accommodate about 75 vehicles.

Music workshop in N.O. to feature Hall, Hanbery

A church instrumental music workshop will be held at New Orleans Seminary Oct. 14-16 for the minister of music and the church instrumental leader.

Dan Hall, director, Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and John H. Hanbery, Music Department, Mississippi College will be featured.

Topics which will be discussed include "Beginning and Enlarging Church Instrumental Ministries," "Solo Repertoire for Church Instrumentalists," "Ensemble Repertoire for Church Orchestras," and "Arranging and Adapting Music to Fit Your Orchestra."

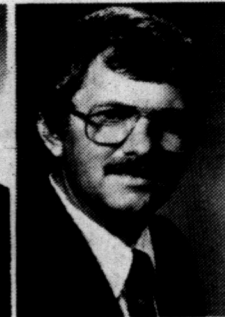
The workshop will include concerts by church orchestras in Mississippi and Louisiana. There will also be open discussions where individuals may ask questions concerning the organization and administration of a church orchestra.

Reading sessions will be conducted by Camp Kirkland, orchestra director at First Church, Jacksonville, Fla. Participants should bring their instruments.

The workshop is sponsored by the Church Music Department, Sunday School Board, SBC. Gerald Arm-



Hall



Hanbery

strong, instrumental consultant, is coordinator.

Interested individuals should contact the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 601-968-3800) for further details and registration forms.

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Jim Thrash is now serving Emmanuel Church, Biloxi as interim pastor. Thrash is a squadron commander at Keesler Air Force Base. He is formerly pastor of Friendship Church, Columbus, and Pass Road Church,

Highland Church, Senatobia, has called Ken Pegram as pastor. George Duke has been called as minister of music; he will be part time. Pegram goes from Horn Lake.

Evette Kelly has been called as minister of youth to Chesterville Church, Tupelo. She has been on the staff of Calvary Church, Tupelo, as coordinator of the Family Ministry Center, and is a student at Blue Mountain College. Greg Thomas is pastor.

Ocean Springs school to sponsor "hands-on" handbell lessons Oct. 10

Ocean Springs school system will be sponsoring a "hands-on" handbell workshop, Thursday, Oct. 10. The workshop will be located at the Ocean Springs High School Vocational-Technical Center. Registration will be between the hours of 8 and 9 a.m. with the workshop concluding at 3 p.m. There will be a registration fee of \$5. Participants will receive \$50 to \$75 worth of music free.

The workshop, conducted by L. Campbell Bunting, director of handbells of Schulmerich Carrillons, Inc., will include such topics as: organization, bell assignments, repertoire, ring performance, and rehearsal techniques.

Anyone interested in attending the workshop should contact Betty Taylor, 603 Halstead Rd. Ocean Springs, Miss. 39564, (601) 875-2851.

Just for the Record

Thursday, October 3, 1985

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11

During the week of July 19-26, 10 Acteen activators from Bolivar Baptist Association worked with the Dauphin Island Baptist Church, Dauphin Island, Alabama. Their responsibilities involved ministry in a campground, a halfway house, detention center, and the Seaman's Center in Mobile. Adult leaders of the group were Mrs. Mary Helen Kitrell and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Self. Mrs. Kitrell is co-director of Acteen work, along with Mrs. Glenda Braswell, in Bolivar Association. Those pictured from left to right, front row: Tracey Jennings, Providence; Stacey Waldrup, Boyle; Pam Weeks, Boyle; Cassandra Compton, Yale Street; Tiffany Earls, Yale Street; back row: Mary Helen Kitrell, Yale Street; Valerie Self, Boyle; Mike Self, Boyle. Not shown, Grace Galloway, FBC, Rosedale.



A conference titled, "Teenage Pregnancy: Mississippi Epidemic," will be held Oct. 22 at the Ramada Inn North in Jackson. It will begin at 8 a.m. and continue until 4:45 p.m. The conference will be sponsored by the Mississippi Children's Home Society of Jackson. Paul Jones, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, will be a conference participant. The registration fee will be \$25 and should be mailed to Adolescent Pregnancy Conference, P. O. Box 1078, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

Calvary Church, Braxton, will finish the 1984-85 church year with the best year it has ever experienced, according to Pastor Henry J. Bennett. New carpet has been installed in the auditorium, parking lot paved, 20 choir robes purchased, also a new advanced Cannon copier purchased, and the church debt reduced from \$14,000 to \$3,000. The enrollment and attendance of both Sunday school and church training has grown. The church has an average of 10 visitors per Sunday. The goal for high attendance in Sunday School on Sept. 29, was 100 and Church Training 50. That was Bennett's second anniversary there.

The annual MSU BSU Alumni meeting will be held at the BSU Center, 2 p.m., Sat., Oct. 19. The buffet for all alumni, students, and friends will be at 3:30 p.m. Cost will be \$3.50. The MSU vs. Tulane homecoming game will follow at 6 p.m.



The Broadmoor Softball Tournament was held July 19 and 20. Shown presenting trophies to Becky Sinclair, director of activities, Midway Church, Jackson, are (left to right) Ed Ratliff, women's softball coach presenting a 2nd place trophy; George Busby Men's No. 1 team coach presenting a 5th place State Tournament trophy and a 2nd place District trophy; Sinclair; Steve Norris Men's No. 2 Team Coach presenting a 1st place league trophy for an undefeated team.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Oct. 10 New Staff Orientation and Directors of Missions Meeting; Baptist Building; 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. (MBCB & PD)
- Oct. 11-12 Disaster Relief Training; Central Hills Retreat; 6 p.m., 11th-2 p.m., 12th (BRO)
- Oct. 11-13 Mississippi Baptist Conference of the Deaf; Camp Garaywa; 8 p.m., 11th Noon, 13th (CoMi)



Riverhill Church, Itawamba County, recognized its pastor, S. E. O'Brian, on his 25th anniversary in the gospel ministry. A plaque was presented to O'Brian, on behalf of the church, by chairman of the deacons, Kenneth Gillingham.

The Masters V will present a concert at First Church, Vicksburg, Sunday night, October 6, 7 p.m. The Masters V includes J. D. Somner, Jake Hess, James Blackwood and Hovie Lister. In 1982 the Masters V received a Grammy Award for best Traditional Gospel Recording.

First Church of Helena, Jackson County, recently set an all time high in the number of people baptized in one service. Gerald Hegwood, pastor, who has been at First Church, Helena for seven years, baptized 17 the Sunday before Hurricane Elena hit. Another recent high was the church doubled the goal of \$200.00 set for state missions. The church gave \$404.25 which is more this year than ever before in the history of the church. "Our church and its members wanted fellow Mississippi Baptists to know the storm hurt, but we haven't lost our mission spirit," stated Hegwood.



Wheeler Grove Church (Alcorn) honored Kara Blackard with an anniversary supper, Sept. 1, in recognition of his four years of service. Also honored were Blackard's wife, the former Linda Robbins of Myrtle, and sons, Ronnie and Steve. Blackard was presented with a recliner during the supper.

Truth, a contemporary gospel music group, will be in Jackson Oct. 3 for a concert at Woodland Hills Church, 3327 Old Canton Road. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken.



Sam Wilson of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Choctaw Association, represented Mississippi in the Youth Bible Drills at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center this summer. He was one of 2,000 Mississippians taking part in Bible drills which are conducted by the Church Training Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Half that number were in grades 7-12. This was Wilson's sixth year to participate.

Northcrest, Meridian, still growing in its 20th year

Northcrest Church, in a growing area in north Meridian, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. It began as a mission in 1964 under the leadership of its first pastor, Leonard Holloway, and met in a store front in the North Hills Shopping Center. A church was constituted on June 20, 1965.

Within the past few months, the church has experienced a good growth, and in the past two years, 200 new members have been added. Plans have been approved to add several classrooms, a large assembly room, and a choir room.

Malcolm Lewis, native of Newton and long time resident of Meridian, has been pastor of Northcrest since

November, 1982. Max Burris was added as minister of music in June, 1983, and Danny Lanier became associate pastor and staff evangelist in June, 1984.

"We at Northcrest Baptist Church believe that God has placed us here to reach people for Jesus Christ," the pastor said. "Under the leadership of Christ and through his power and grace, we are seeing the lost saved and the saved strengthened."

The church motto is "Where Everybody is Somebody and Jesus is Lord."

Each Sunday at 8:45 a.m., WMOX Radio carries the Words of Life Broadcast with Danny Lanier.

Shiloh (Marion) makes plans to celebrate centennial

Shiloh Church, Marion County, will celebrate its 100th birthday on Oct. 6, with a full day of special activities. Some of the former pastors and many of the former church members will visit.

Services will begin at 10 a.m. with recognition of all the former Sunday School directors. Several former pastors will participate in the 11 a.m. service. A covered dish luncheon will follow. In the afternoon service, all former Church Training directors will be recognized.

Roland R. Turnage, whose family moved to Mississippi in 1845 and settled on Ten Mile Creek one year later, was instrumental in getting the church started at Shiloh. The first house of worship was probably built in 1896, 11 years after the church had been officially organized.

The first building stood until December of 1941, at which time it burned. A small block structure was built in the early 1940's. The present structure was built in 1973; the

building suffered severe damage in the 1983 flood, but damages have been repaired.

The history indicated the church has had many defeats and victories. However, membership has grown from a few to over 300 at the present time. The present church is growing rapidly and seems to have caught new visions of its opportunities and responsibilities. Eddie King is present pastor.

For those who are interested, a book is being published about the 100 years of the Shiloh Church. To buy the book contact Mrs. Elma Johnson at 736-6565.

Off the Record

A University English instructor recently introduced to his class what he termed "one of the finest, most elegant lines of poetry in the English language."

"Walk with light," he quoted, and then repeated softly, "Walk with light. Now isn't that a wonderful thing to say to someone?"

The class agreed, of course, and wished to know the author.

"I suppose it's anonymous," said the instructor. "It's written on a sign at the intersection of Main and Ninth Streets."

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Constitutional changes declined by committee

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Seventeen proposed changes to the Constitution and bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention were turned down by members of the SBC Executive Committee during their September meeting.

The changes, which ranged from the age of messengers to the SBC annual meeting, to the basis for representation to procedural changes in nominating trustees to denominational agencies, were referred to the Executive Committee during the 1985 annual meeting.

In presenting the recommendation to take no action, Francis Wilson of Alamogordo, N.M., vice-chairman of the bylaws workgroup, explained the six member workgroup which included James Yates of Yazoo City, was concerned with implications of the changes in the volatile atmosphere of the SBC.

"We felt we should not make any change," he said. "We want to let the Peace Committee do its work and perhaps there will be a more appropriate time in a better (political) climate in which to consider these changes."

Several of the actions drew discussion, including a proposal to change the requirement for representation, which says churches shall be entitled to additional messengers - up to a total of 10 - by contribution of \$250 "to the work of the convention" during the calendar year preceeding the annual meeting.

James Baucom of Martinsville, Va., noting he "feels strongly" about the need for change, pointed out the \$250 "was set back in 1888 and \$250 won't go as far now as it did then."

He added he hopes the matter "will be addressed at a more propitious time."

Another proposal which drew comment was a recommendation home and foreign missionaries be allowed to vote by mail. The proposal, Wilson noted, probably will not be considered later.

He commented many of the foreign missionaries are "members of national churches who are not qualified to send messengers. If not allowed this action, we would give the missionaries a privilege we do not even grant messengers of the convention."

Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, said he opposes the proposal "for a much more practical reason. The motion assumes that we will know beforehand what the issues are and who the candidates will be."

In addition to consideration of voting and representation, referrals related to the member of trustees any church could have on any board of any SBC agency; election of officers; inclusion of Cooperative Program giving percentages along with the names of those appointed or nominated to convention committees; changing the nature of the Committee on Committees or the way in which it is appointed; and discontinuation of resolutions at the annual meetings.

In another action on a referral from the convention, the Executive Committee noted "it is not practical" to

mail a copy of the annual Book of Reports to each church a month before the annual meeting, but did establish a new procedure for distribution of the material.

It noted copies of the Book of Reports may be ordered through the Business and Finance Office in advance of the annual meeting, and the person placing the order will receive a receipt which can be exchanged for a copy of the book at the registration desk at the convention site.

In other actions, the Executive Committee:

—Changed the titles of executive staff members of the Executive Committee. Harold C. Bennett will become president; Reginald M. McDonough will become executive vice-president; Tim A. Hedquist will become vice-president for business and finance, and Wilmer C. Fields will become vice-president for public relations.

Committee members were told the changes were necessitated by changes in the laws of Tennessee, where the Executive Committee is incorporated.

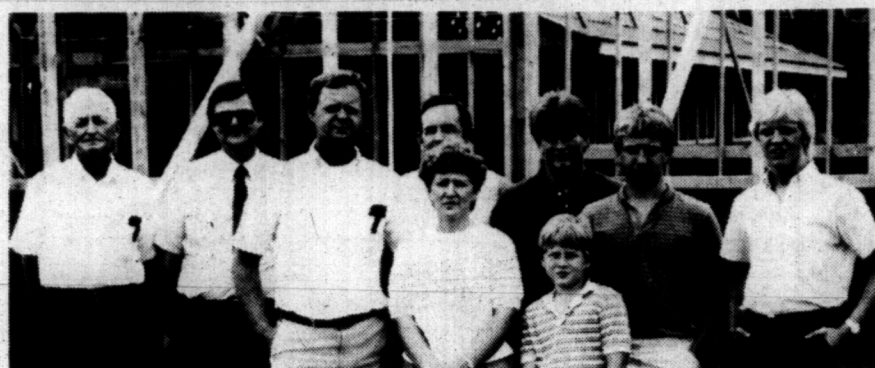
—Continued a study of proposed guidelines for Baptist Press, the denomination's news service.

—Voted to continue a study of the matter of investments by SBC agencies in businesses which do business in South Africa.

—Adopted a 1986-87 Cooperative Program budget goal of \$136 million, to include a basic operating budget of \$126,630,000; capital needs budget of \$5,870,000, and a phase two budget of \$3,500,000.

—Heard an address by SBC President Charles F. Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, who said Baptists "need to be quiet" about controversies and let the Peace Committee do its work.

Dan Martin is Baptist Press news editor.



Calhoun Countians go to Goshen

A group representing five churches in Calhoun County Association, went to Goshen, Indiana, to help Maple City Baptist Church with its new building. Pictured, front row: David, Sue, and Brian Mitchell. Back row: Doyce Nolan, Wayne Gullett (director of missions), Joe Grady Denton, Jerry West, Darrell Mitchell, and Tim Ruth.

Pastor-deputy sheriff dies of gunshot wounds

John Klem III, bivocational pastor of Bouie Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, and part time deputy sheriff, died Monday night of gunshot wounds suffered answering a disturbance call at a truck stop near Hattiesburg two weeks earlier.

Klem, who was also a professor of history at Jones County Junior College, and a William Carey College graduate, had been shot twice while on duty and died from complications.

The suspect, Michael Jones of Hattiesburg, was booked on charges of aggravated assault against a police officer and for theft of Klem's patrol car. He is being held for psychiatric evaluation, according to police.

Klem is survived by his wife, Martha, and three sons: John, James, and Mark.

The funeral was to be today at 2 p.m. at Bouie Street Church with burial at Highland Cemetery in Hattiesburg.

I say the fellow who keeps himself in shape, who refuses to be discouraged by the bad breaks, who keeps on hustling with the best he has, should make the grade. It is the general average that counts, not the big day or a bad day. — Lou Gehrig.

Homecomings

Eastabuchie, Hwy 11 north of Petal: 102nd homecoming; Oct. 6; regular services, 9:45 a.m.; former pastor, T. K. Ford, Sr., guest speaker, morning worship hour; visitation and dinner, noon-2:00 p.m.; special music provided by present and former members of the church; Joe Royalty, pastor.

Grandview, Pearl: 25th anniversary homecoming; Oct. 6; Gordon Shamburger, first pastor, speaker; Sunday school, 9:45; worship, 11; followed by covered dish luncheon; song service, 1:30; no evening service; Wade Chappell, pastor.

Stonewall, (Simpson): homecoming, Oct. 6; Bob Jones, pastor, morning service; dinner served and a program of music planned for afternoon.

Spring Hill, Waterford: homecoming, Oct. 6; services, 11 a.m., William Gullick, a former pastor, evangelist; covered dish dinner will follow the morning services; afternoon, song services, highlighted by a special group; Billy G. Mitchell, pastor.

Antioch (Neshoba): homecoming Oct. 6; Albert McMullen, morning message; Mike Truhett, afternoon message; Danny Lanier and the Disciples, Arkadelphia Baptist, music.

Mt. Vernon, (Holmes): homecoming, Oct. 6; Earl Ezell, Greenville, morning message; basket lunch, noon; James Carr, pastor.

Glading (Amite): Oct. 6, homecoming; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; morning message, 11 a.m. by Charles Kirkfield, pastor; dinner on the grounds; afternoon singing.

Liverpool (Yazoo): 112th anniversary, homecoming, October 6; service, 2:30 p.m. Halbert Selby, speaker; Leon Giddings, and Mrs. Giddings, music.

Holly Springs (Marion): homecoming, Oct. 13; services, 11 a.m., H. C. Bailey, former pastor, message; dinner, fellowship hall, 12 noon; afternoon song service, 1:30 p.m., Otis Broome, minister of music. James L. Yates, pastor.

Celebration: First, Jackson

First Church, Jackson, will offer Celebration, a Fantastic Fall Weekend, for singles, Oct. 4, 5, and 6. Jeanette Clift George, actress, and Mary Ann Kirtley, singer, are the program personalities. Friday night's session opens at 8 and Saturday morning's at 9, in the sanctuary.



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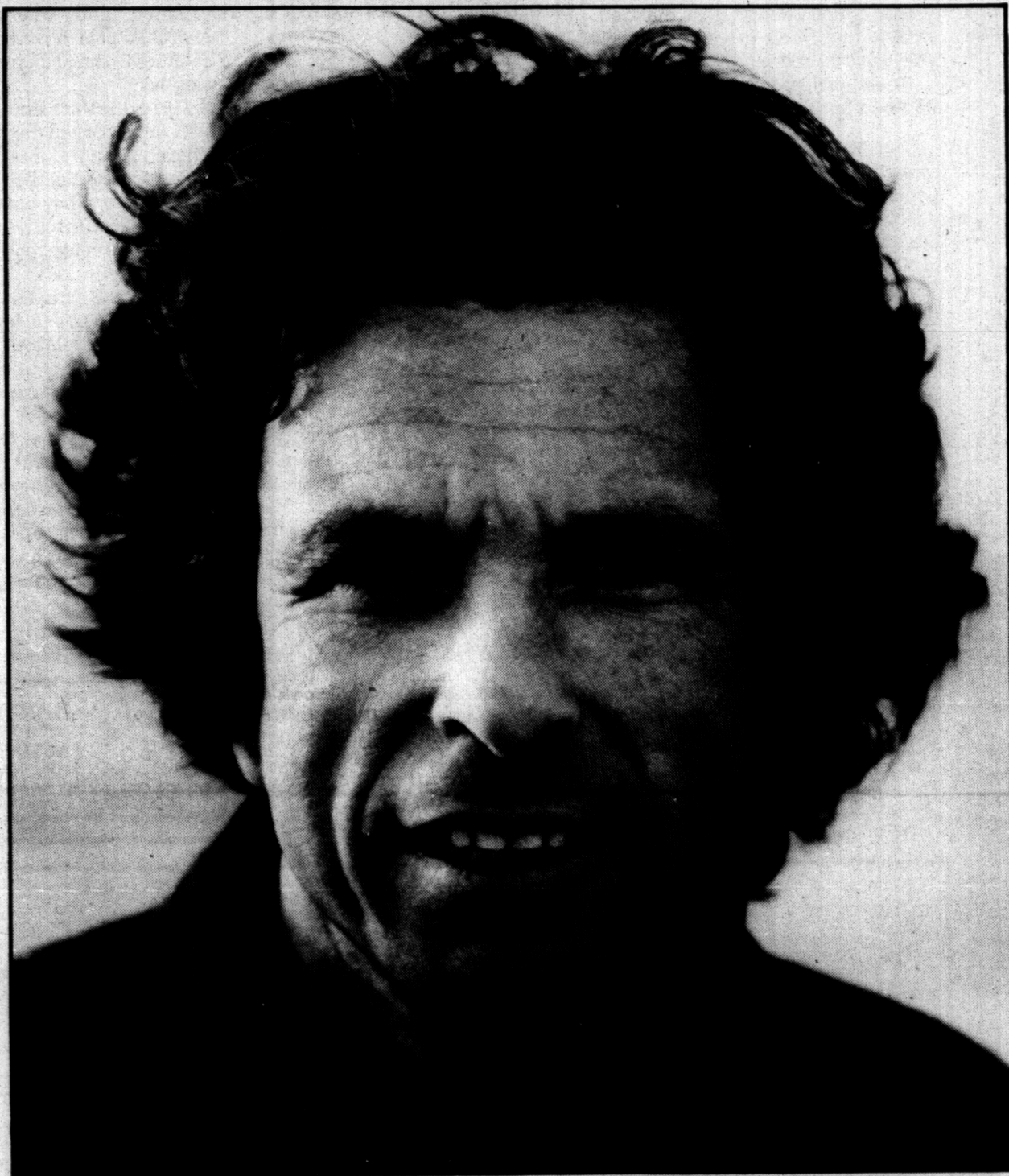
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Conference to explore discipling laypeople

ARROWHEAD SPRINGS, Calif.—The National Renewal Evangelism Conference will explore the layperson's call to discipleship and its relationship to spiritual renewal when it meets here Oct. 31-Nov. 2.

Featured speakers at the three-day event include Avery Willis, Robert Hamblin, Fred Roach, James Smith, and Christine Gregory.

The theme of the conference, sponsored by the Evangelism Support Department of the Home Mission Board, is "Crucified with Christ."

Hamblin, vice president, evangelism, Home Mission Board, will present the message, "Living in the Power of the Resurrection." He is a former Mississippi pastor.

Willis, supervisor, Leadership Development Section, Church Train-

ing Department, Sunday School Board, and author of *MasterLife*, will share the layperson's call to discipleship.

A businessman active in the lay renewal emphasis, Roach of Dallas, Texas, will discuss witnessing in the marketplace.

Smith, president of the Brotherhood Commission, will examine the Brotherhood's role in discipleship, and Gregory, former president Woman's Missionary Union and Southern Baptist Convention former first vice president, will view the woman's role in lay renewal.

For more information and to register for the conference, contact Reid Hardin, Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street, NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367.

State pair return to Korea with new marching orders

Dale Holloway, pastor of Day Star Church in Rankin County and bivocational ministries consultant for the Home Mission Board, and Benton Preston, pastor of Midway Church, Jackson, will return to Korea Oct. 9 - 24 as members of a partnership evangelism team sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board.

Both were in Korea before as members of the 138th Engineer Pontoon Bridge Company during the Korean War. Neither has been to Korea since.

Holloway and Preston were part of a group of 138 who left Picayune to go to Korea during the Korean action.

The two will work together and will be serving two churches. The churches

are the Soon Chun Church in Poong Dug Dong and the Shin Kwang Church in Kyung Gi Do. They will be preaching in the churches, in factories, and in other business establishments. They plan to visit areas where they served in military action.

Holloway said there are 10,000 bivocational ministers in the Southern Baptist Convention. They work in secular employment for 40 hours each week and then carry out duties as pastors of churches in addition.

On this trip to Korea there will be 66 Baptists to work with 38 churches. Last year on a similar crusade there were 150 Baptists who worked with 34 churches. There were 7,159 Koreans who made professions of faith.

Church staffers guaranteed life and medical coverage

DALLAS — From Oct. 1 to Nov. 30, the Annuity Board will guarantee life and medical coverage for all Southern Baptist church staff members and their dependents.

The coverage becomes effective Jan. 1, 1986. Normal underwriting procedures of all applicants will resume Dec. 1, 1985.

Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan said the special emphasis is designed to allow all eligible church staff members, especially those persons who have been declined life and medical coverage, the opportunity to obtain this protection.

A highlight of the open enrollment period includes guaranteeing both healthy and unhealthy applicants identical coverage under the current medical and life plans.

Applicants who enter the program with medical problems will not be covered for their pre-existing conditions for 24 months. If they do not receive treatment for these conditions during the first 12 months, coverage will begin at that point. However, all

ailments occurring after admission into the medical plan will be covered.

Persons currently participating in the program who have restricted coverage will have all of these restrictions lifted so as to provide full coverage.

Life rates will be reduced up to 30 per cent for some age groups and dependent life coverage will be increased from \$2,000 to \$4,000 for the spouse and the dependent children's benefit will be \$2,000. The deductible for accident coverage also will be eliminated.

Persons employed 20 hours per week by a Southern Baptist church and their dependents are eligible to participate.

Morgan said that most church staff members will receive information about the special enrollment period by mail in early October. He said this information can also be obtained by calling the Annuity Board toll free number, 1-800-262-0511, or the state annuity representative, Bill Sellers.

Names in the News

H. Bryan Abel, Jr. a sergeant in the Armed Forces, stationed at Fort Campbell, was licensed to preach on Sept. 8, by First Church, Woodhaven, Tenn. Abel was born in Grenada, and graduated from East Union High School, Union County. He is married to the former Alicia Speck of Ingomar. They have 3 children. He is the son of H. Bryan Abel, pastor of Center Ridge Baptist Church, Yazoo City.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, has been named by the Baptist World Alliance to serve on the Baptist World Aid Division Committee for the period of 1985 to 1990. The committee's work is outlined in the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention Annual on Page 229.



G. E. Jolley, Sr. retired on Sept. 1 as director of missions in Panola County, as was announced in last week's *Baptist Record*. He stated that he is interested in pulpit supply, Bible teaching, and in whatever ways God may direct him. His address is Route 2, Box 336, Batesville, Miss., 38606, or by phone, (601) 563-4792.

Prayer is not a last extremity; it's a first necessity.

Baptist funds give aid in wake of Kenya fire

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — A Kenyan Baptist church used Southern Baptist relief funds to aid 400 people left homeless by a fire that swept the Mathari Valley slum area of Nairobi in late August.

Members of Mathari Valley Baptist Church gave a blanket and four bags

of corn, the staple food in Kenya, to each victim, said Laura Lee Stewart, missionary press representative for Kenya. Tom Jones, Southern Baptist missionary, assisted Pastor Patrick Kimani and church members.

One man died when fire swept the crowded valley where many of the Nairobi's poor have built cardboard shanties to shield themselves from the weather.

This is the third time Southern Baptists have worked the Mathari Valley Church to help slum residents in the wake of a fire. Southern Baptists provided \$5,000 to buy blankets for about 1,500 fire victims after a 1984 fire and \$5,000 to provide food and blankets after a fire in 1983.

Earlier this year, Southern Baptists provided \$13,000 to buy corn meal, beans and vegetables for about 250 families there suffering from malnutrition because of the African drought.

The Mathari Valley church grew out of worship services at a clinic built 15 years ago by Southern Baptist missionaries using wood from their packing crates. But because the area is so crowded the church was long unable to secure land for a building, said Stewart.

Smith, McKay to lead crusade in Greenville

Bailey Smith, who recently announced his resignation as pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., to enter full-time evangelism, will be the preacher for a countywide evangelistic crusade Oct. 6 - 11 in Washington County.

The services will be held in the Washington County Convention Center.

John McKay, music evangelist from Fort Worth, will be the music director. Dan Robertson, pastor of Parkview Church, Greenville, is crusade director. Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Greenville, is crusade chairman.

The Washington County Convention Center is a 3,000-seat facility.

The crusade will be sponsored by the Washington County Baptist Association. Twenty-one churches are joining in the sponsorship of the crusade.

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I was thankful to the Lord for the members of the Harrisburg Baptist Church in Tupelo for their generous and progressive decision to adopt the expanded Church Annuity Plan.

Because of the thoughtfulness and concern of church members, the staff will face retirement years with adequate income. My prayer is that other church employees in the Mississippi Baptist Convention could be as fortunate.

Dr. Larry W. Fields, pastor
Harrisburg Baptist Church
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Southern Baptist Annuity Board

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Ezekiel's call to proclaim Israel's judgment

By J. Gerald Harris
Ezekiel 2:2-6; 3:17-19; 4:1-3

Ezekiel was essentially a prophet of the captivity. He was a contemporary of Daniel and Jeremiah. Jeremiah, the older of the three prophets, heralded the message of God in Jerusalem and later in Egypt. Daniel ministered primarily in Babylon. Ezekiel's ministry was largely confined to the Jewish exiles who had been taken to the rivers of Babylon at Tel-Abib.

Ezekiel was taken away into captivity 11 years before the destruction of Jerusalem. While false prophets were predicting a speedy return to Jerusalem, Ezekiel maintained that Jerusalem would fall. As the prophecies of Ezekiel were fulfilled, he began to win the respect of the exiles.

Ezekiel means "empowered by God." Many think of Ezekiel as a deeply sensitive and spiritual man

because of the manner in which he declares the person of God and extols the glory of God. It has been said that "Isaiah is the prophet of the Son, and Jeremiah is the prophet of the Father, but Ezekiel is the prophet of the Spirit."

I. God's Word (2:2-6)—Ezekiel apparently was prostrate on the ground when the Word of the Lord came to him. God said, "Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee" (2:1). The term "son of man" is used almost 100 times in the book of Ezekiel. Our Lord called himself by that same title. Concerning Ezekiel, it refers to his suffering, his human weakness, his humiliation.

God spoke to Ezekiel that he might call him to be a prophet to the children of Israel. In verse 2, we discover that with the call of God there was also the provision of the spirit of God. When

God guides, he always provides; and where he leads, he will meet our needs. It is futile for the man of God to ever attempt to do the work of God without the spirit of God.

Ezekiel is informed of the unlikely reception he will get from the people he is assigned to help. He is warned of their rebelliousness and hardness of heart and iniquity. Ezekiel is told by God to preach fearlessly and "say unto them, thus saith the Lord God."

II. God's Watchman (3:17-19)—God compares Ezekiel's role to that of a watchman on a tower of a city wall. In ancient days the watchman would position himself on a strategic point atop the wall of the city and gaze the horizon for any hint of danger. The watchman had to be responsible. He had to be awake while others slept. He had to be alert while others were inert.

God said to Ezekiel, "Therefore hear the word of my mouth, and give them warning from me" (v. 17). Just as a watchman could only report what he had seen, so can we only preach and teach what we have learned from God. To do anything else is to deceive the people, to give out stones instead of bread.

Sometimes the prophet (watchman) is not alert, does not see the impending danger, and does not get a word from the Lord. Therefore, he has no message to deliver. On other occasions, he sees a cloud of dust on the horizon and hears the approaching hoofbeats of calamity but does not give a certain trumpet blast. His piccolo ditties alert no one to the impending danger.

God says that the prophet who does not warn the wicked to turn from his wicked ways will be blood-guilty of such neglect.

III. God's Warning (4:1-3)—God directed Ezekiel to take a "tile" and sketch upon it an outline of the city of Jerusalem. Through this symbolic portrayal of Jerusalem God had Ezekiel demonstrate the inevitable fall of the city.

In all of this Ezekiel showed the Lord's judgment upon Jerusalem. He impersonated Jehovah by raising the iron pan between himself and the tile. The iron pan became a wall of separation depicting the truth of Isaiah 59:2.

The tile and the iron pan became the first sign Ezekiel used to warn the people of the sure judgment of God upon their sins. The graphic picture of sin and rebellion resulting in separation from God should have led to immediate repentance, but it did not.

J. Gerald Harris is pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson.

A divided church

By Anthony S. Kay

I Corinthians 1:10-15; 3:5-15
In Baptist Sunday School work, the slogan "Divide and Multiply" has been used to encourage members to grow numerically. However, this is not what Paul is advocating here. Word has come to the apostle about division within the fellowship. Observe the prevailing problem and principal objective of Paul's message.

Division—The church divided is a church weakened. The appeal of some to win followers to a dominant personality within the church was divisive. The emphatic nature of this condition is noted by the statement that is rendered, I, I myself—I am of Apollos, I, I myself—I am of Paul, etc. These strong personalities (followers of these personalities, not the persons themselves) were

dividing the Christian community into popularity camps. The nature of this issue is frighteningly familiar today. Regardless of the prestige of the persons involved, as Paul urged, we are not of men. We belong to Christ. Thus, Paul pled for unity and oneness of mind. The church must give a unified witness to the world that reflects a oneness in Christ. Southern Baptists must not forget this.

Paul plays down the sense of oneness that comes by designated authority. He uses the act of baptism to stress this point. He attacks the spirit in the church that leads to strife and affirms the cross of Christ as the basis for relationship. Baptism is significant and must not be ignored but as the Broadman Commentary states, "Paul is emphasizing, against

the view of some of the Corinthians, that baptism does not possess saving potency.

He is not striving to devalue baptism but to correct the over-emphasis some Christians place on it" (Vol. 10, p. 301). The primary work of Paul was not baptizing but preaching as he cited, "For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel" (v. 17). The church must not divide into groups that will emphasize particular facets of our faith. The church must remain one in its faith, its objective and its purpose.

The second segment of our lesson today fortifies what Paul has already indicated. Namely, the church of Christ is more than its individual members or leaders. These following words may shed light on Paul's

counsel.

Planted, watered, growth. These three words indicate that the church in Corinth (as well as any church) grows by combined effort. The harvest of souls will come as a result of the labors of all. The individual effort is important and we should each assume our part, but the growth of the Kingdom will be God's work. To plant is important. If there is no seed in the ground, there will be no harvest. Over and above the efforts of man is the work of God. Lest any of us should think more highly of ourselves, we must remember that our true growth and fulfillment comes by cooperating with others in the body of Christ and through obedience to God. God will provide.

Foundation—This key word is very

important. My father has been in the construction business for over fifty years and is still going strong. As a youth and young man I worked with him. I learned that the most important part of any super-structure was the foundation. No building is more secure than its foundation. Paul urges the Christian church in Corinth to remember that Christ (not man—any man) is the foundation for the church. People may contribute valuable assets to the kingdom—even gold, silver and precious stone. Others may have limited gifts of wood, hay or stubble. The test of one's spiritual life and growth will be dependent upon the foundation upon which it is built. Christ alone is sufficient.

Paul's message is relevant today. Let the church be the same mind. Let the church be of the same mind. Let the church be united in purpose preaching the Word of God.

Kay is pastor, First, Calhoun City.

Recognizing God's reliability

By David W. Spencer

Genesis 8:20-22; 9:11-16
Both God's Word and our experiences have taught us that God can be trusted even under the most trying of circumstances.

I. The circumstances of Noah

It is impossible for us to imagine how Noah and his family must have felt to discover that they were the only people to survive the flood. What an awesome feeling to realize the enormity of God's hatred for sin and the enormity of his power to judge sin! It's no wonder that a shaken Noah builds the first altar mentioned in the Bible.

The word altar literally means "a place for the offering of slain animals." Since God was on high, then Noah and other ancient men learned to erect altars on high places so that their offerings might rise up to reach God's throne. In the smoke and flame of a sacrifice, the essence of the animal was converted into a vapor and the worshipper's deepest feelings ascended to God in this vapor. Thus

God saw the desires of the man's heart in the vapor.

II. The grace of God

In the offering from Noah's sacrifice, God saw Noah's thanksgiving for protection during the flood, his awe at the destructive power of God's judgment, and the desire to remain in fellowship with God. He might also have sensed Noah's fear that such an awesome thing could happen again because of man's bent toward sin. God knows the evil in our hearts (v. 21) and also knows of our need for grace. Therefore God vows never to destroy every living creature again but to give us regularity in the seasons (v. 22).

Our second focal passage (9:11-16) gives the account of God's covenant with mankind to set forth this act of grace. A covenant is designed to clarify a legal agreement between two parties. We usually think of covenants as being made between two equal partners. However, in the Old Testament world there existed a suzerain-

ty covenant in which one partner was greater than the other. Although he was under no threat or obligation, the suzerain, because of his gracious nature, would make a covenant with someone in need. This is the nature of God's covenant in this passage.

The sign of the covenant (never to destroy the world by a universal flood again) was the rainbow. In the rest of the Old Testament, this word bow usually means the "bow of war." The rainbow pictures a military bow lying with its string on the ground. The meaning is that God has laid aside this bow which can bring such awesome destruction.

From Noah's day to ours, God's rainbow has been a visible sign of the stability of God's universe. God has promised never to bring upon the earth again such an awesome flood which can return the world to the watery deep of Genesis 1:2 and thus make life impossible.

God's people can be assured of the

stability of God's earth and of God's grace for us even in our sin. As I write this commentary, we on the Gulf Coast are in the midst of a giant clean-up from Hurricane Elena. On Sunday night, September 1, as we gathered for worship we knew that within a matter of hours we would have to evacuate our homes. The tension of watching Elena build her strength and slowly move toward our homes had gotten to us. We all knew too well the awesome destructive power of hurricanes. As we stood on the front steps of our church watching the clouds and discussing our evacuation plans, there suddenly appeared the most beautiful rainbow any of us had ever seen! As a matter of fact, it was a double rainbow. It was then that a sense of peace swept over our hearts and we went inside to worship fully confident of God's grace and care for his children in Christ.

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